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THE CONTENTION OF THE BARDS

EDITED

WITH TRANSLATION, NOTES, GLOSSARIES, Etc.

BY

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PART I.

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FOREWORD.

IRISH Scholars and Irish Historians have been long wishing for a critical edition of the *Contention of the Bards*. They felt it a shame and a loss that no considerable body of Bardic poetry should exist in print, and they thought it especially desirable that the *Contention*, which caused such a stir in the Ireland of the early 17th century, should be rescued from the precarious keeping of manuscripts.

In 1911 Mr. Thomas O'Nolan, M.A., undertook the task of publishing the *Contention*, but his early death prevented him from carrying out this, one of the many noble purposes of his life. His widow, Mrs. O'Nolan (Maire de Buitleir), very kindly put the notes of her husband at my disposal, as I was one of his closest friends. Very gladly—though perhaps rashly—I availed myself of the opportunity of testifying my affection and esteem for my dear friend, and of completing, as far as my powers would permit, the work he had begun.

Mr. O'Nolan had already done much of the tedious spade-work, having collated many MSS. of i.-ix., xiii.-xvi., xx., xxi., xxiii., xxiv., xxvii.-xxix., and having written a tentative translation of i.-v. 98.

I owe a very special debt of gratitude to Miss Eleanor Knott, who not merely read very carefully all the proof-sheets, but in numerous instances—more numerous even than those where “(K)” indicates her suggestions—gave me the benefit of her wide and accurate scholarship. To her is due practically the whole Appendix (page 255), which, except for considerations of printing expenses, would have been incorporated in the body of the book.

To the Celtic Faculty of the National University, and in particular to Dr. Douglas Hyde and Dr. O. J. Bergin, I am indebted for their kind permission and even encouragement to publish the book, which was presented in the first instance as a Thesis. Also I am indebted to Father J. McErlean, S.J., for many helpful suggestions.

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[illegible]

ABBREVIATIONS.

Acall.	= Acallam na Senórach (Ir. Texte, Ser. iv., Heft. i.).
Contrib.	= Contributions to Irish Lexicography by K. Meyer.
O'R.	= O'Reilly's Irish Writers.
K.	= Keating's History (Ir. Texts Soc.).
Z.C.	= Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie.
K.Z.	= Kühn's Zeitschrift.
M.C.	= O'Curry's Manners and Customs.
4 M.	= Four Masters (O'Donovan).
P.H.	= Passions and Homilies (Atkinson).
B.R.	= Book of Rights (ed. O'Donovan).
Magh Rath	= Battle of Magh Rath (O'Curry).
C.C.C.	= Caithreim Ceallachain Caisil (Bugge, 1905).
C.A.	= Cóir Anmann, Ir. Texte, iii. Ser., ii. Heft.
O'Dav. Gloss.	= In " Three Irish Glossaries " (Stokes).
Fled Bric.	= Fled Bricrend (Ir. Texts Soc., 1899).
A. Clonmac.	= Kilk. Arch. Soc. Jour., N.S.I., 444-460.
Serg. Cuch.	= Serglige Conculaind (Windisch. Ir. Texte).
Mesc. Ul.	= Mesca Ulad (Hennessy, Todd Lect., 1889).
Tec. Corm.	= Tecosca Chormaic (K. Meyer, Todd Lect., 1909).
Toch. Em.	= Tochmarc Emire (K. Meyer, Rev. Celt. xi., 434).

The other abbreviations will be easily understood.

INTRODUCTION.

PART I.

ORIGIN OF "THE CONTENTION."

IN the beginning of the 17th century Tadhg McBrody, chief poet of Thomond, published a poem "Olc do thagrais a Thorna," in which, by way of a criticism of two poems of Torna (fl. 5th century), he challenged the pretensions of the Eremonian clans, especially those of the North, and extolled the Eberian dynasties. A controversy arose between the Court poets of the North and those of the South. This controversy, generally known as "Iomarbhaidh (or "Coinn-tinn") na bhfileadh" caused, to judge from the multiplicity and variety of the MSS., a lively interest everywhere in Ireland.

It is not easy to explain why so many poets joined in the controversy, nor why the dispute caused such a stir through the land. Tadhg's poem cannot have been its cause, but at most its occasion. We know of many earlier poems equally capable in themselves of exciting such a contention. We know of other such controversies which apparently excited little or no stir. (Cf. "Reliquiae Celticae," II., pp. 291-297.)

O'Curry (M.M. 141) says that the contention arose "apparently in consequence of a preconcerted arrangement," and that "its object was to rouse and keep alive the national feeling and family pride of the native nobility." Dr. Hyde ("Lit. Hist." 517) and Miss Hull ("Text Book of I. Lit.," 168) are of the same opinion. It seems hard, however, to read this exalted motive into the poems. The poems of McBrody, notably his Elegy on the 4th Earl of Thomond, would suggest that he had no conception of a national policy of resistance to the foreigner. He mentions approvingly the Earl's exploits at Kinsale! Even supposing that he did perceive the necessity of uniting the Irish chiefs it seems unlikely that one, who in his professional eulogies went out of his way to deny his political convictions, would have been the leading preacher in a poetical crusade for the defence of the old Irish polity. Again, the general tone of the poems does not suggest that the uniting of the country was the motive of their composition. It is true that the poets (for instance, Tadhg, xviii. 5) protest that they do not wish to set tribe against tribe; it is true, too, that a feeling of the essential

union of the Children of Mil is everywhere present, but in nearly every poem the feeling of racial unity is quite subordinate to the desire of extolling one set of Irishmen as against another. McArthur (xiii. 29) and O'Donnell (xxv. 3) alone protest against the controversy as being a disservice to the country. Nowhere in the controversy do we find that scorn and hatred of the foreigner which glows in the writings of many of the poets who lived at the same time. Moreover, the poets expressly state (vi. 273; ix. 25, 26, etc.) that it was loyalty to their particular chiefs which urged them to write, and they see the same motive in their adversaries, calling it, of course, by a harsher name (x. 11; xxii. 15). The verses, too, found in Egerton 161 (O'Grady, Cat., 617) would seem to show that some of the contemporary poets saw only a foolish local patriotism in the dispute.¹

I imagine that the reason why the controversy created so much excitement among the bards, and throughout the country, was that in the beginning of the 17th century there was established over Ireland a state of peace. This peace, though it was a peace of misery and despair coming after the long fierce turmoil of the Elizabethan times, forced the nation back on her own thoughts, and drove her to seek consolation in the only possession left her, her memories of the past.

O'Curry (MM. 142) attributes to the contention "the renewed study of our ancient literature," inferring this from "the important Irish works which soon followed it, such as those of Keating and the O'Clerys and McFirbis."

There are no means of accurately dating the various poems. The dispute is said by O'Curry to have started about 1604, but O'Donnell's words (xv. 5, 6) would seem to show that Tadhg's first poem was not published till after the death of the Earls, the second of whom died in 1616. It was over before 1624; for Tadhg, writing (xxix.) after the contention was over, speaks of Donnchadh, 4th Earl of Thomond (d. 1624), as yet alive.

¹ *Luġdaró taóġ aġur toġna ' ollam oirġearġa aġ taalam
coim iao co n-iomao ġeara ' aġ toio to eargair ġolam*

PART II. THE POETS.

TORNA (generally called "TORNA ÉIGEAS") probably belonged to the district which bears his name, Í Torna (part of which is now "Abbey O'Dorney"), in Co. Kerry. He is said to have there acted as foster-father and tutor to both King Niall of the Nine Hostages and Corc mac Lughaidh, King of Cashel. Five poems are attributed to him: (1) "Gabh mo theagasg a Néill náir" (T.C.D. H. 4. 22), addressed to Niall. (2) "Atá fótsa ri fir find Fáil" (L.U.), on Niall's death. (3) "Mo dhá dhaltán níorsad líúin," a lament for Niall and Corc. (4) "Dáil catha idir Corc is Niall," relating an incident in the careers of the two princes; and (5) "In tan théigmis don dáil" (Y.B.L.), an address to the graveyard where lay King Dá Thí.

O'Curry (MC. ii., 59-71) considers the second and the fifth of these as certainly genuine. About the genuineness of the other three (at least in their present form) he expresses doubts, though he successfully refutes the chronological reasons which O'Flaherty had adduced to prove their spuriousness. O'Flaherty, led astray by a mistake in Keating's History, had argued that Corc must have died before A.D. 378, that he could not, therefore, have lamented Niall (*ob.* A.D. 405) or Dá Thí (*ob.* A.D. 428), and that he could not have been a Christian, as the poem represents him.

The third and fourth of the above poems are found in nearly all MSS. of the "Contention." On this account, and also because it was Tadhg McDaire's attack on them, especially on the latter of them, which occasioned the dispute, I have included them (i., ii.) in the poems of the "Contention." "Dáil catha . . ." is sometimes ascribed to Torna O'Mulconry (*ob.* 1468). O'Grady (Cat. 345) suggests that McDáire prefixed it to his poem, not fraudulently, but as a suitable rhetorical argument.

TADHG MAC BRUAIDEADHA (*ang.* Brody, Brodin) generally called from his father's name, Tadhg Mac Daire, belonged to the family which had since 1563 provided the professional bard to the O'Briens of Thomond. He succeeded in this office to Domhnall McDaire, probably his brother (O'Curry, RIA. Ac. Cat., p. 393). O'Flanagan (Trans. Gael. Soc., 1808) states that Tadhg was born in 1570, that as bard of Thomond he held the castle of Dunogan (Bar. Ibricken, Co. Clare), and that in 1652 he was murdered by a Cromwellian soldier who threw him over a cliff, saying, "ἀνὰ τὸ πᾶν ἀνοίει ἄ τις οὐδὲν." In a book entitled "Responsio veridica ad illotum libellum cui nomen est Anatomicum Examen P. Antonii Bruodini Hiberni OSF. a Rdo. Domino Thoma Carve Tipperariensi Sacerdote et Proto-notario Apostolico Viennae commorante. Solisbaci, 1672," we find, p. 124, "Et ego hisce meis oculis viderim

Thadaeum Bruodinum filium Darii (Teigue Mac Dary) familiae caput (psoricum profecto) sine equo sine carro aut curru (nisi quod obvio cisio rustico vehebatur cum rustico lubebat), sine veste quae decem valeret florenos iter facientem, quod de O'Briennis cogitare nefas esset." (Cf. O'Grady, Cat. 388).

The above is all the information we have about McBrody's life. Of his poems, besides those here printed, we possess 16 others, about 2,000 lines. Their initial lines are :—"A macaoim féanar mo féar," "Mór atá ar teasgar flata," "Mo céirre raiinn duit a Donncaid," "Easgar saoróid éas éinfeir," "Mall an veitbhirre ar Donncaid," "Anoir díolam an deachaid," "Ní trát doo dól a Dáimur," "Uaigneas rin a Cinn Coraid," "Tairgto mo féacaid a ríol mhóir," "Fóirto mo leirge a leat Cúinn," "Déanad comnuir a clann Cúinn," "Teallac flaitir fine Caoim," "Cionnur fíot féarann luigne," "A éroc Dé déine mo leirgar," "Déanad so ruadac ríol ádam," "Roza zac beata beit boct," "Dob féarri mo féacna a Síle." The first four are to, or about, his patron, the fourth Earl of Thomond. The second four are about the O'Briens. There is practically no information to be got from these poems as to the life of the poet, except that his cattle were seized by the Northern chiefs on one of their incursions into Thomond. Another poem, "Aoróiz ó Cair na éric féin," is given in Eriu viii. 83 as being in the Book of the O'Conor Don.

LUGHAIDH O CLERY belonged to the family which gave bards to the O'Donnells since 1492. In 1595 he succeeded, as head of his clan, and as ollamh of the O'Donnells, to his father Mac Con O'Clery. His mother was a Southern (xvi. 40, xx. 11). He, with his cousin Michael, was educated in the South by Baothghalach McAodhagain (Intro. to Michael O'Clery's Gloss. Rev. Celt., iv.), and possibly also by Tadhg McBrody (ix. 6). He died in 1630. His other extant works are :—The Life of Aodh Ruadh O Domhnaill (Rev. D. Murphy, Dublin, 1893), and a fragment of an Elegy on Baothghalach McAodhagain (Rev. Celt. iv.). For an account of his family v. Intro. to FM.

SEAN O CLERY, the author of poem xxviii., and also of "Cia do bhearras ar Bhreifne" (O'R. clvi.) is not further known to us.

BAOTHGHALACH MCAODHAGAIN's family was of the Cinel Fiacha, and was situated originally in W. Meath. Members of it are mentioned in FM. as ollamhs of Breifni, and as Brehons of O Conor Don and O Conor Faly. In the early 17th century they are found scattered over Cork, Limerick, Kerry, Wexford, Tipperary, King's Co., Queen's Co., Leitrim, Longford, Galway, Sligo, Roscommon. Elizabeth's Fiants mention a McEgan as brehon in Co. Galway. There were Bally-mac-Egans in Co. Tipperary, Queen's Co. and Co.

Longford. Our poet was master of the Bardic school in Ormond at which Michael and Lughaidh O Clery (as Michael tells us) received their poetic education. No other poems of Baothalach are extant.

ANLUAN MCAODHAGAIN, author of poem xxv., and of "Is breagach sin a bhean" (RIA.), is not further known to us.

MATHGHAMHAIN O HÍFEARNAIN (Mahon O Heffernan) is author of xi., of "Ceist cia do chimeochadh dán" (ed. and trans. by O. Bergin, *Irish Rev.*, April, 1913), and of two other extant poems, "caoin thu fein a dhuine bhoicht" (*Reliquiae Celticae* I., 126) and "a mhic na meabhruigh eigse" (O'Grady, *Cat.* 392; O'Connor Don's *Book*, cf. *Eriu*, viii., 82). He may be the Mahon O Hiffernan given in the *Fiants* as a "rimer," apparently in Co. Cork. Most of the name were to be found about Sronill, Co. Tipp.

DR. ROBERT MCARTHUR, O.S.F., is mentioned in Tadhg O Cianain's story of the Flight of the Earls as meeting the Earls at Douai (*Archiv. Hib.* II., App. 37). Fr. P. Walsh quotes (l.c.) from "Information of Sir Neale O'Donnell, 7 Aug., 1606." "Robert McArthur, S.J., is now in England, and doth from thence advertise the Earls of all occurrences." There was almost certainly no Jesuit of the name, and the man here referred to was probably our poet. All the MSS. of the *Contention* refer to him as Robert McArthur, O.S.F. and Doctor of Theology. One of them (RIA. St. B. iv. 4) superscribes Poem xiii. "Brathair Daithitt, etc.," perhaps his name in religion. RIA. 23. G. 13 states that his poems were written in Louvain. In the "Report on Franciscan MSS. in Convent on Merchants' Quay" mention is made (in reference to the tumult at the Convent in 1629) of a Mr. Robert Arthur, but one would not gather from the context that he was a member of the community. There is no record of any Franciscan of the name of McArthur. Fr. E. Hogan, S.J., suggests that McArthur is an assumed name, and that our poet was Dr. Robert Chamberlain, O.S.F. This seems highly probable. Fr. Chamberlain was a Northern by birth (cf. xvi. 101), a Doctor in Theology (cf. xiv. 34), was well versed in the Irish language, lived in Louvain where he taught Theology for 18 years (1608-1626), and was devoted to the cause of the Earls (Report on MSS. in Merchants' Quay Convent, A.D. 1626, 27, 29, 30; Brennan, Vol. I., 285).

MAC DIARMUDA, author of xxvi., was Brian Og (xxvii. 11). He came of age in 1617, and was re-granted much of the land taken in 1603 from his father Brian. He married Margaret de Burgo, d. of Earl of Clanrickard, died in 1636, and was buried at Clonmacnoise (K. James' Army List, D'Alton).

ART ÓG O CAOIMH (O Keefe) says (xxvii. 10) that he is related to the O Briens. Beyond this we know nothing of him. Perhaps

he was the Art og (Mac Airt mhic Dhomhnaill) O Caoimh, chief of his name, inaugurated in 1583, who is mentioned in Fiants as living in Dromagh Castle (Bar. Duhallow, Co. Cork), mentioned in FM. 1582, 1583, and whom O Daly satirised (Tribes of Ireland, O'Donovan). No other poems of his are known to me. He is not to be confounded with Art (Mac Eoghain) O Caoimh who flourished at a later date.

FEAR FEASA ÒN CHAINTE may be the Farfassie O Canty, who with Katherine Ny Daly, his wife, is mentioned in the Fiants as living at Curribordy, Co. Tipp. (?), in 1601. Besides x. and xxii. some other poems of his are extant—"Bean dā cūma cpioe Ealla," "Cionnur meire a mic Eogáin," "Cpéao dā realbáinn dān an dān," "Mór an feróm deilb an dāna," "Mór roir na haim-rearab," "A páogáil ón a páogáil," "Mór ro nio dāoine dīb féin," "Leo féin cúipro clann lta"—all in RIA., and the two last printed in O'Grady, Cat., 555, and Miscell. of Celt. Soc., 1849.

EOGHAN MCCRAITH also belonged to a bardic family. In the Fiants, 1573, there is a pardon for "John McEnas McCragh rymer of Ballyogurty, Co. Wat.," who may be our man, but the name was common in Co. Tipperary and Co. Waterford. Besides xii. he wrote "Tuḡad an t-áir-ia ar Éirinn." Two poems, "Tuḡ dom aipe a innre an lāois," "Teac carao ro ciú potaín," sometimes ascribed to him are more probably by Maolin Og Mac Bruaideadha and Goffraidh Fionn O Dalaigh respectively. Another Eoghan McCraith, surnamed "an t-orrthoir," flourished 1400.

AODH O DOMHNAILL tells us that his father's mother was daughter of O'Brien (xv. 41), and that when writing xv. he was an old man (xv. 11). He is addressed xxvii. 10, "Aodh og" (i.e., son of another Aodh) and "Ua" (i.e., head, or pretender to headship of clan). These indications fix him with fair certainty as Aodh brother of Manus, and therefore grand-uncle of the famous Red Hugh. His grandfather, Aodh Ruadh, married Fionnghuala d. of Connchobhar na srona O Briain, Lord of Thomond, 1466-1496 (cf. FM. 1474; O Donoghue's Hist. of O'Briens, 146), and in 1598 he was living in his castle at Rathmelton, and "challengeath a title to the whole countrey" (Descript. of Ireland, 1590; Hogan; Fiants, etc.). As his father died in 1537 he would have been old in 1616. The FM. mention him 1564, 1592, 1600. For eulogies on him cf. Life of Red Hugh (Murphy, pp. 58, 187, 249). It was probably on him that the fine poem by Fearghal Og Mac an Bhaird, "Ní trath aithreachais d'fhuil Chonuill," was written, though O'Curry in describing this poem seems to gather, I know not whence, that the subject of it pre-deceased his father and would not therefore be our poet.

TOIRDHEALBHACH O BRIAIN of Cathair Mionáin (Bar. Corcomroe, Co. Clare), was son of Murchadh, who was a younger brother of the 2nd Earl of Thomond (K. iv. p. 49; Fiants). No other poems of his are extant, nor is anything beyond a reference in FM. 1591 known to us of his life.

PART III.

MANUSCRIPTS.

The following are the MSS. consulted :—

MSS.	SCRIBE.	DATE.	REFERRED TO AS
Maynooth Cu.	B. O Cuirnin	1712	C
„ B	? Co. Clare	1712	B ⁵
„ K	?	?	K ³
„ R	?	?	R ²
T.C.D. H. iv. 4	Aodh O Dalaigh	1725 (Dial)	T ¹
H. i. 17	?	(only xxviii.)	T ²
H. i. 7	Michael O Longain	(Dial)	T ³
H. iv. 15	?		T ⁴
Dr. Hyde's MSS.	? Dublin	1744 (Dial)	Y
Stonyhurst MSS.	O Caoimh		X
Univ. Coll. Dub.	?	(Dial)	Z
RIA. St. A. iv. 4	Dom. O Dubhgenan	1724	S ¹
St. A. iv. 3.	?		S ⁵
B. iv. 1	Dan. O Dubhgenan	1671 (Dial)	S ²
A. v. 1	Lughaidh O'Clery (?)	(Dial)	S ³
C. vi. 3	E. O Dubhgenan	1633 (?) or 1700 ? (Dial)	S ⁴
24 P. 24		1700	R.
24 P. 13	Niall O Cionga	1621 (only iv. viii.)	P
23 A. 30	Jas. Maguire	?	A
A 46	S. O hAoidh	1825	A ²
B 13	M. Mahony	1822	B ¹
B 16	Pat. Downey	1821	B ²
B 24		1837 (Dial)	B ³
B 37	M. O Curry	1822	B ⁴
C 31		(Dial)	C ²
D 5	Sean McSolam	1714 (Dial)	D
D 6	R. Tipper	1713 (Dial)	D ²
F 16	Fergal O Gara	1659	F
G 1	Art O Caoimh	1709	G

MSS.	SCRIBE.	DATE.	REFERRED TO AS
G 8	T. O Neachtain	1711 (Dial)	G ²
G 13	S. O Cleary, Co. Cavan	1836	G ³
G 23	Mich. óg O Longain	1821	G ⁴
H 18	Will. Curtin	1702	H
H. 21	Varii	1752 (Dial)	H ²
H 25	Tomas McDomhnaill	1783 (Dial)	H ³
I 6			I
K 6	Mich. óg O Longain	1834 (Dial)	K ²
K 13		17—	K
K 45	Seamus McUidhir	1746	K ²
L 3	Sean O Connaill	1824 (Dial)	L
L 26	C. McDomhnaill	(Dial)	L ²
L 37	John Stack	1709	L ³
L 29	W. Christopher	1767	L ⁴
M. 22	P. O Conchobhair	1776 (Dial)	M
M 24	Ed. O Reilly's son	18—	M ²
N 11	Mich. óg O Longain	176—	N
N 13	Mich. óg O Longain	176- (Dial)	N ²
E 15	Mich. óg O Longain	1797	E
E 16	Mich. óg O Longain	1799	E ²

Not all of the above have been collated, but all have been consulted in searching for good texts.

Of the MSS. which can be dated, only two (and they of poor quality and containing only a few of the poems) date from the 17th cent., and nearly a half are as late as the 19th cent., while there is every reason to believe that the undated MSS. are not older than the rest. This is most unfortunate. All these poems are written in the old Bardic measures by men trained in the Bardic schools. Now, these schools were broken up in the 17th cent., when the old Irish civilisation was being crushed. After the break up of these schools the scientific and elaborate training which used to be given in them was nowhere to be had. In the later part of the 17th cent. the rules and traditions of Bardic poetry were beginning to be forgotten, and in the 18th cent. had become a vague memory, though even then isolated individuals still preserved some knowledge of them and some skill in their handling. Yet, though skill and knowledge were rare, good-will was abundant, and great numbers of men followed the Scribe's profession, anxious to preserve the literature of their race. Many families in various parts of the land devoted their members to this profession. These scribes not being scientifically trained in the old metres were careless of the niceties

of aspiration, eclipsis, accentuation, etc. Moreover, mere boys seem to have been put to copy MSS. Also, I think, there are traces of MSS. being written from dictation, as one sometimes finds two variants, one of which would if read sound almost the same as the other, but would give a different sense.

For these reasons, and for others given below, it is not strange that the MSS. of these poems should vary very considerably. A glance at the variants (of which it would have been impossible and needless to make an exhaustive list) will show how great liberties were taken by the scribes.

These differences are of various kinds.

A. As to the number of poems in the "Contention." Some MSS. give most of the poems here collected, others only some of them. There was evidently no recognised "canon." One sometimes meets in the MSS. a note, "I have not found the answer to this poem," as if the scribe had been gathering the different poems from various sources. Indeed it is not certain that we have here all the poems that were written in the "Contention." Some passages (e.g., in xxiii. and perhaps vii. 16) seem to refer to poems of which we have no record.

B. The MSS. differ in the length of a given poem. In certain poems, which are evidently answers to a preceding one, there are passages (vi. 263, etc.) whence one could infer that we have not the preceding one in its complete form. Of some of the poems, notably xv., there were evidently two rival versions.

C. The MSS. differ as to the order of the poems. The "Contention" as a whole consists of four distinct controversies—(a) Tadhg v. L. O'Clery, iii.-ix. (b) Tadhg v. McArthur, xiii., xiv., xvi. (c) Tadhg supported by O'Brien and O'Keefe v. O'Donnell and McDermott, xv., xvii.-xix., and xxvi.-xxvii. (d) Tadhg v. the McEgans, xx.-xxi., xxiii.-xxv.

There are, besides, four poems the relations of which are hard to establish. There are, then, the two poems of Torna and three concluding ones which do not strictly speaking belong to the "Contention" as such.

The poems belonging to the same controversy are generally placed together in the MSS., but the order in which these controversies are placed varies considerably. The four isolated poems occur in all kinds of positions, so that the MSS. are useless for determining their proper places.

A peculiarity of some MSS. is that in some cases where one poem answered another the two poems are written together, each point as it is made being immediately followed by its answer. The poems so arranged are—iv., v. ; xiii., xiv. ; xv., xviii. ; xxiii., xxiv.

Each of these pairs, where it occurs, reads like a dialogue, and I have placed " (Dial.) " after the MSS. in which this arrangement is found. (Cf. supra.) It is to be noted, too, that in each such pair of poems the Southern one comes after the Northern, and, moreover, that the Southern poem is always Tadhg Mac Bruaideadha's. Most of the late MSS. adopt this Dialogue order, but the best MSS., even though of fairly late date (such as 23 K 45), do not. This would suggest that the Dialogue arrangement was adopted by a Southern, who wished to bring out with extra force the Southern case against the Northern. As the choice of arguments thus juxtaposed, and the order in which they are placed, is the same in all the MSS. where the Dialogue arrangement is found, I infer that some one person adopted the plan, and that his plan was followed by the scribes generally. Probably this person was not Tadhg himself, as in that case it would be found in all the MSS.

D. There are, of course, in all MSS. numerous variants caused by the negligence or fatigue of the scribes.

E. There is constant diversity in the way in which the MSS. in the case of a given word employ the various forms of it which were the stock in trade of the professional *file* and were meant to be used by him as best suited his verse.

In this connection it is to be noted that the Debhidhe poems forming nearly the whole of the "Contention" are of two distinct classes. The first consists of those of an argumentative nature. In them the poets use a loose form of "Debhidhe" which allows them to write fast and at their ease. The second are in strict Debhidhe and present their thoughts in a condensed and involved fashion. The grammatical variants are naturally more numerous in the first of these classes. The loose metre allowed the scribe to substitute an easier phrase for a more difficult one, to substitute one name or epithet for another, perhaps in order to show off his learning, and to choose among the various grammatical forms familiar to him the one which he thought more correct or more antique, etc. The poems in stricter metre being more difficult to understand inspired perhaps somewhat of a hieratic awe, though they, too, have not escaped without some changes. Their metre, however, generally serves to show the correct reading.

F. There are the variants, more strictly so called, by which the sense is more or less materially altered.

The last two classes of variants caused much perplexity. On what principle was a text to be chosen?

Age was no guide. None of the MSS. are very old. Only two are 17th cent. MSS. and they are poor and avail only for a few poems.

Mere weight of numbers was of little importance either. Many of the MSS. are copies of others, or at least come from a common source and agree in evident blunders. I strove to establish the relationship between several MSS., but found this of little use.

The principle which appeared to be best was to examine the accuracy with which the strict-metre poems were written in the various MSS., and then to assume (though it was not a quite sure assumption) that the other poems would be treated with the same degree of conscientiousness. According to this principle C, K², A, seemed to be the best, and where they were available I have never, I think, departed from them in any important matter without noting the fact. Where these failed, I followed what I thought the next best.

G. There are the variants which affect mere spelling, that is, those in which no grammatical differences are involved. In this respect not merely do MSS. differ from each other, but each MS. differs from itself in the one page, or even in the one stanza. As therefore fidelity to the MSS. (differing from each other) was impossible, and as fidelity to a particular MS. would have led to a senseless and most irritating variety and to considerable difficulty in forming a glossary, I thought it advisable to aim at a certain uniformity in some points which were of no linguistic importance. Between the alternatives offered, namely the newer and the older form, I have thought it better, the authority of the MSS. being about equal on either side, to adopt the newer. To adopt the older would have been to add, at least in some slight degree, to the difficulties of those who are accustomed only to the modern forms of the language.

I have therefore written $e\Delta$ for io in short unstressed syllables, except when riming with accented io (though even then I might have done better to write $e\Delta$, as the sound is quite indeterminate). \acute{e} followed by a broad consonant I have generally written $\acute{e}\Delta$, though the MSS. use $e\Delta$, $\acute{e}u$, eu , \acute{e} indifferently. I have written the preposition $\imath n$ - instead of Δn -, availing myself of the freedom offered by the MSS. I have written ζc , υc , etc., for cc , τc where these forms represent eclipsis, and have substituted υ , ζ , υ , for τc , cc , pp , where the latter are mere archaic equivalents of the former.

PART IV.

METRE AND GRAMMAR.

There are three kinds of metres (all of seven syllables) used.—(1) Strict Debhidhe (vii.-xii., xx.-xxv., xxix.-xxx.). (2) Loose Debhidhe (i.-vi., xiii.-xviii., xxvi., xxviii.). (3) Rannaidheacht Mhor (xix., xxvii.).

N.B.—(1) Loose Debhidhe is not a degenerate form of Strict Debhidhe, but is found in the early 15th century.

(2) Many words, chiefly adverbs,¹ may be divided up to establish alliteration. An infixed Pronoun with its supporting particle is treated as *iarmbearla*, also the Δ of Δ - $\tau\epsilon\iota\mu\mu$, Δ - $\tau\Delta$, etc. Diphthongs in foreign words may be treated as dissyllables (ii. 54; iv. 15; v. 42; vi. 76; xvi. 5. 122).

In Loose Debhidhe, Rime is used as in the older poetry, i.e. :—

(1) Any of the following can rime with each other, p ; c ; τ ; pp ; cc ; $\tau\tau$; p, c, τ , joined with $p, \acute{c}, \acute{\tau}, \upsilon, \xi, \upsilon, \iota, n, p, m$: e.g., $\tau\upsilon\iota\tau$, $\tau\Delta\upsilon\iota\tau$; $\iota\epsilon\Delta\tau$, $\epsilon\epsilon\Delta\tau$; $\omicron\iota\epsilon$, $\upsilon\Delta\omicron\mu\mu\Delta\epsilon\tau$; $\epsilon\omicron\mu\epsilon$, $\iota\omicron\epsilon\tau$; etc.

(2) υ , ξ , υ , p , \acute{c} , $\acute{\tau}$, υ , ξ , υ , ι , n , p , m , $\iota\iota$, nn , pp , m , $n\xi$ form only one class for riming purposes, i.e., any of them rimes with any other single or doubled; and any group of two rimes with any other group of two. (υ , however, does not rime with υ , ξ with ξ , υ with υ , m with m .)

(3) p can rime with υ , ξ , υ , etc. (xiv. 22, xv. 11, etc.)

N.B.—Sometimes even the above rules are infringed (vi., 68, etc.). Even a vowel sometimes rimes with a vowel and consonant (xxviii., 5, 13, 49). Rime being so understood, the following are the chief rules in Loose Debhidhe :—

(1) Final words of a^2 and c rime with final words of b and d respectively.

(2) Final word of d (and sometimes of b) is a syllable longer than the final word of the preceding line. Rime in these cases begins with the last stressed syllable of c (or a), i.e., the final monosyllable of c (or a) rimes with the second syllable of the final dissyllable in d (or b); the final dissyllable of c (or a) rimes with the last two syllables of the final trisyllable in d (or b). Sometimes final stressed syllable of a (or c) rimes with final of trisyllable in b (or d). Cf. iii. 10, 19, etc

¹ e.g. $\Delta\iota\eta\delta\iota\nu$, $\Delta\iota\omicron\mu\mu$, $\Delta\eta\lambda\iota$, $\Delta\iota\omicron\mu$, $\Delta\eta\iota\mu$, $\Delta\eta\iota\mu\iota\epsilon$, $\iota\mu\alpha\iota\iota\epsilon$, $\iota\mu\alpha\iota\mu\alpha\omicron\mu$, $\iota\omicron\mu\omicron\mu\mu\mu\Delta$, $\Delta\iota\omicron\upsilon$, $\Delta\eta\acute{\epsilon}$, etc.

¹ a, b, c, d , denote the four lines of the stanza.

(3) Alliteration, though sought after and common, is not necessary.

(4) There is no Internal Rime.

(5) The functions of *iarmbearla*, eclipsis and aspiration are the same as in Strict Debhidhe.

(6) In each stanza the sense is complete. After the first couplet there is a pause in the construction.

N.B.—xvi. does not observe Rule 2 or 5.

In the two Rannaigheacht poems the looser form of rime is observed. The rule that the final word of a poem must repeat at least a part of the first stressed word is not observed in xi., xii., xxiv., though these poems are in Strict Debhidhe.

SOME COMMON VARIANTS.

Vowels unstressed : o=Δ=u. *amur*, -or, -ar ; *canar*, -ur. *ai*=*ui*=*ei*. *oir*o*air*c, -ei-, -ui- ; *éigre*, -ri.

Vowels accented : o=Δ. *tol*, *tal* ; *for*o*ac*, *fra*- ; *bol*s, *ba*- ; *oigéan*, *ai*- ; *ro*s*a*, *ra*- ; *co*s*a*il, *ca*- ; *fo*la, *fa*-. o=u. *oir*a, *ur*- ; *oir*a*ma*c, *ur*-, *oir*b*u*inne, *ur*- ; *so*in, *su*- ; *ol*ca, *u*- ; *fi*o*c*a*m*, *fiu*- ; etc. ó=á. *s*lór, *s*lár ; *có*ir, *cá*- ; *do* *có*ró, *do* *cá*-. ó=u. *r*lós, *r*luas. ô=ú. *có*igeaó, *cú*-. ú=ao. *túr*s*a*, *ta*or-. i=eí. *m*(e)*ir*se ; *b*(e)*inn* ; *n*(e)*im*. oí=eí. oíle, eí-,

Consonants broad and slender : *co*r*s*a*m*, *co*r*s*i*m* ; *cu*r*im*, *cu*r*a*m ; *ra*nn*a*m, *ra*nn*i*m ; *co*s*l*a*m*, *co*s*i*s*i*m ; *r*ó(i)*r*(e)*a*r ; *fu*l*a*in*s*i*m*, *fu*il*n*s*i*m, *fu*l*a*n*s*a*m* ; *fo*ir**b**é, *fo*r**b**éa ; *l*(a)*i*s*i*n ; *c*r(o)*r*óe ; *t*(o)*i*s ; *mon*ca, *me*ince.

Consonants aspirated and non-aspirated : *io*naó, -ò ; *a*cáó, -ò.

Liquids, Single and Double : *me*a**r**b*a*l(l) ; *co*s*i*s*l*(l).

Varia : *lu*ac, -s ; *te*ac, -s ; *ca*ic, -s ; *co*m*ir*ce, -se, -se, -ce ; *r*éa*s*a*m*, -é-, -s- ; *a*na*c*a*il*, -s- ; *io*ma**r**bá*r*ó, -s ; *b*laó, -s ; *r*io*c*, -ò ; *tnú*ca, -òa ; *cu*ma*l*, -b- ; *é*m*ir*, -b- ; *fo*r**b**aó, -m- ; *p*r*é*a*m*, *fr*- ; (f)*u*a*r*á*n* ; (f)*é*il*m* ; (f)*é*io*r* ; (f)*a*na*m* ; (n)*u*m*ir*.

Nasalisation is very carelessly observed by the scribes. The following are a few examples of cases in which it was regularly used by the poets from the 13th to the 17th century, *an éinní*, xxi. 5 ; *an s*c*é*aó*na*, iv. 47 ; *an o*r*ea*ó, xvi. 120 ; *an s*cáin, vi. 236 ; *an a*ir*o*r*u*s, vi. 203 ; *u*r*ca*r n-*io*m*r*u*il*, xxiii. 18 ; *m*u*r* n*lo*c*t*, xv. 56 ; *m*ó*r* n-*io*r*ea*ó, xxv. 9 ; *fan* *io*inn *s*c*é*il*ir*ó, xxii. 7 ; *na s*c*ra*nn n-*io*m*ir*, xvi. 78 ; *rú*l ó *s*Cuinn, xxv. 5.

Irrational nasalisation is very common, and probably for the most part due to the scribes.

NOUNS.

For variations in declensions of nouns, adjectives, vid. Voc. sub. :
 Δθα, αιλ, αιτνε, διοθ, βάρθ, βράιτρεαρ, βρεατ, βυαρθ, βέαορδαρθ,
 conclann, conφαθ, ράιλ, Θεαθα, θεαλθ, ριαρ, ριλιγε, εαγαι, εαρρ,
 έιρε, έιγρε, έιρ, Εοθαρθ, φέρθιμρθ, φαλα, φιαθαρθ, φιλε, ζραθ,
 ιομαρζ, ιά, ιεατ, Ιυγαρθ, μεανμα, μεαρθαιλ, νάρ, νυα, ρανν, ριαρ,
 ραοθ, Τεαθαιρ, τοι, τοραθ, τρυαζ.

The Nom. can be used for Voc. It also can be used for Gen. of Proper names, also sometimes for Gen. of Common nouns. Cf. v. 35, 57, 177.

ADJECTIVES.

Notice βιννιττιρ, xxviii. 43, "as sweet"; νίορ ό., "younger," xvi. 35; νίορ μό, νί αρ μό, νίρα μό; μόμ (?) xxvii. 17. Predicate adj. with copula sometimes agrees with subject, i. 1; ii. 41; viii. 31.

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES.

Notice αρ ρά ροάν, xix. 8; xiv. 70; α ρά mbeαταρθ, etc., v. 83; 122; xxviii. 37; but cf. vi. 50, 59; xiv. 34.

NUMERALS.

Ρά masc. and fem. aspirates (in Gen. often no affection in MSS., v. 183; vi. 37); in neut. it eclipses. Notice ράνα, ριθλιοναιβ, ρείρε, ριαρ, α ρό ριοθ, vi. 49.

Τρι η- (cf. Ir. Gr. Tr. § 18.) Notice α τρι, vi. 183; νυμμιρ τριρ, xiv. 27; τεορα, xv. 57; τριέρθε. ζυρ αν ρειθ, vi. 184; ρεαθτ ροειθ ρο . . , vi. 189; ρά φιθιρ, xv. 66; xxviii. 28; ρά φιθεαρ, xvi. 120, 121; φα ρό, έρι, etc.

PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

Ει-φείν, xxiv. 14, etc.; ιρε, iv. 36; v. 93; ρινν, ινν, ριονν, ιονν, ριθ, ιθ, ιαο, ιαο-φείν.

INFIXED PRONOUNS.

Sg. 1. Όομ έμάρθ, ii. 53; ρομ αιτ, xxiv. 7; όμ ριθιινντεαρ, xxiv. 8 (?).

2. ροο έυιρ, xvi. 196; ρορ ραλλ, xvi. 135 (?).

3. ρορ ριθεανν, etc., vi. 134, 257; xvi. 163; xxv. 4; xxviii. 39; ροο έυιρ, v. 92.

Pl. 3. ρορ ιιζ, ix. 28.

PRONOUNS, PRONOMINAL ADJECTIVES, etc.

Vid. Voc. sub. αραιτε, αραιλλ, cé, ceααταρ, cφέαο, ζαθ, ζιβε, ναθ, νεαθ.

RELATIVE.

Construction as explained in Three Shafts. Introd.

N.B.—*lpa*, xvi. 194 ; *apopri pe a linn eapla*, vi. 74.

SUFFIXED PARTICLES.

ei-réin, *lao-réin*, *na óéiré-réin*, xxii. 18 ; *oppa*, -*roé* (?), xi. 3. -*ne* (1 Pl.) palatalises preceding syllable.

ro, *ró*, *óo*, *úo*, *roin*, when stressed can retain these forms even after palatal endings.

VERBS.

Certain forms are used indifferently as suits verse or preference of poet, e.g. :—

Conj. and abs. forms of 3 Pl. Pres. Ind. or Subj., and of Passives, *ao*, *ao*, *eo*, *ro* ; *air*, *ar*, *ear*, *ir*.

Short and long forms of 1st and 2nd. Pl. Primary and Secondary tense, and of 3rd. Pl. Secondary tenses, *mao*, *maoio*, *mio*, *míó* ; *mair*, *maoir*, *míur*, *míur* ; *oar*, *oaoir*, *oir*, *oir* ; *ta*, *taoi*, *te*, *tí*.

Conj. and Abs. forms of Pret. 3 Sg., 1st, 2nd, 3rd Pl. *rtar*, *rtair* ; *mar*, *mair* ; *bar*, *baír* ; *tar*, *tair*.

REGULAR VERB.

Imper. Sg. 2. *féac*. 3. *cuiréad*. Pl. 1. *rzuiréam*, ix. 11 2. *beanad*, x. 8. 3. *anad*, xviii. 7. Ps. *caomantair* (?), x. 8.

Ind. Pres. Sg. 1. *anam*, *fillim*. 2. *labra*, *labrai-re*, *áirm(e)-re*. 3. *claoir*, xviii. 119 ; *claocláir*, xxix. 21 ; v. 114 ; vi. 16, 263 ; xiii. 9 ; -*mair*, i. 13 ; -*perio*, vi. 66 ; -*can*, xiii. 34 ; v. 43, 110 ; xviii. 141 ; form in -*nn*, -*beanann*, vi. 65 ; xv. 15. Pl. 1. *molmuir* ; -*ceileam*, ix. 11 ; xxiv. 25. 2. *maoiré*, xvi. 8 ; -*mearta*, xvi. 14 ; xviii. 118 ; ix. 9 ; xvi. 53 ; -*léisre*, viii. 4. 3. *anad*, *fillio*. Rel. *dearbar*, *áirmear*. Ps. *tuigéir*, *moltair*, *oigéar*.

Imperf. Sg. 1. -*áirmínn*, -*labraínn*. Pl. 1. -*lammaoir*. Ps. *oo réantaoi*.

Subj. Pres. Sg. 1. *maoiréar*, iv. 57. 2. *leana*, *perioe*. 3. *léise*, -*aspa*. Pl. 1. -*labram*, vi. 34 ; -*tuilleam*, xvi. 199. 2. -*cuiréoi*, vi. 137. 3. *fionnaro*, xiv. 35. Ps. -*léisgear*, v. 84, 121.

Subj. Past. Sg. 1. -*féacáinn*. 2. -*mearta*, -*cuiréa*. 3. -*mórad*, vi. 192. Pl. 2. -*cuiréoi*, v. 150. Ps. -*leantaoi*, *léisge*.

r Fut. Sg. 1. *anfad* ; *cuirfad* ; -*cuiréob*, xxvii. 17 ; -*leanad*, vi. 260 ; iv. 4 ; v. 47 ; vi. 4 ; viii. 14 ; ix. 4 ; xiv. 34. 2. *tuigfe*, -*tuigfe*. 3. *mairfe*, xxix. 30 ; -*léisfe*, ix. 29 ; -*oíútpa*. Pl. 1. *cuirféam*, vi. 268 ; *fionnram*, xxix. 12 (both used relatively). 3. -*tuigfio*, -*tuigfio*. Rel. *raorfar*, *rzuirfar*. Ps. *uairéir* ; *perioiréar*.

Redup. Fut. Sg. I. ἀιρεομαι, xxviii. 41; κοινοεοιλαο, v. 184; θεαρῶδσαο, v. 31; vi. 8; ιννεορσαο, v. 127; -ταῖςέαρ, xxiv. 11; -céat, xxviii. 28; -θειρμέαο, xxix. 13. 3. μέαραιο, vi. 123; θεαρῶδσα, vi. 259. Pl. I. θεαρῶδσαμ (rel.), xvi. 126.

† Condit. Sg. I. -οιύτφαινν; -cuñθαιςφινν, viii. 26. 2. -ιαρρφα. 3. -τuisφεαο. Ps. -οιύτφρε, ραορφαρε.

Redup. Condit. Sg. I. -ἀιρέομυινν, vi. 170. 3. -ἀιρέαμαο, iv. 44. Ps. -ιέαμταοι, xxii. 16.

Preterite. Sg. I. -ιαμαρ. 2. -ιαμαρ, -μαορῶρ. 3. τεαζραιρ, ii. 6; βρρρρ, xxviii. 32; cf. ii. 10, 21; v. 178; xx. 9; xxviii. 20; -ciaoi, etc., v. 178; xvi. 98; xv. 54; -μαρ, etc., v. 103; ii. 42; v. 110; vi. 28, 214; xviii. 13; xxiv. 1; xxix. 31. Pl. I. canama(ι)ρ; -canama(ι)ρ; -θεαρῶραμ. 2. cuireadba(ι)ρ, -cuireadba(ι)ρ. 3. -φάρσραρ, etc., x. 16; xviii. 80; xxix. 22; το θεαρσαο, vi. 39, 46, 101; xviii. 158, 167; -έαζρσαο, xv. 6; -caittρεαο, xvi. 133; Ps. -αιτ, xxiv. 7; -ciōθ, xxviii. 55; -οτεαετ, vi. 273; -ορτ, iv. 66; vi. 212.

VERB-NOUNS.

Αο, g. αρο, -τα, -ααο, -οαο, -αζαο, -υζαο, -εαζαο, -ιυαο, -ιυζαο, -εααο.

SUBSTANTIVE VERB.

Ind. Pres. forms without α- optional in Rel. construction, always after μαρ and usually after ζέ, μά, ό.

Sg. I. ατύ; τυ; -φυιτμ. 2. αταοι; ταοι; -φυιτε. 3. ατά, τά; -φυιτ; -φοιτ; φιτ (rel.), v. 186; -τάρ, vi. 63; xx. 4; xxv. 13. Pl. I. ατάμαρο; -τάμ; -φυιτμρο. 3. ατάρο; τάρο; -τάρο; -φυιτρο; -φυιτεαο.

Habit. Pres. Sg. 3. -bí. Pl. I. bíom. 3. bíο; -bíο. Rel. bíορ.

Imper. Sg. 2. bí. 3. bíοθ. Pl. I. bíom.

Imperf. Sg. I. -binn. 3. -bíοθ. Pl. 3. -bíοιρ, -bíοίρ.

Pret. Sg. 2. το βάθαιρ, xvi. 30. 3. (MSS. vary much), το buí, vi. 33, 40. buí, xxviii. 27, 49. ρο buí, i. 8; -buí, vi. 227; ρο báí, vi. 190; το bí; -ραíθε. Pl. το βάθαιρ, v. 118; vi. 90; βάθαιρ, xxviii. 12; -ραθρσαο, vi. 204. Impers. -ραθρ, v. 63.

Subj. Pres. Sg. 3. -bé; -ραíθ. Rel. θεαρ, viii. 28.

Subj. Past. Sg. 2. -beíteα, iii. 12. 3. -θεατ, vi. 259; x. 28; xviii. 35; -beíte. Pl. I. beimír. 3. beioír; beíteoír.

Fut. Sg. I. -bíú. 3. bíαρθ; -bíα. Pl. I. -bíam. Rel. bíαρ.

Cond. 2. -beíteα. 3. -bíαθ.

Verb-noun, beíte; beíte.

Part. Necess. beíteτε.

COPULA.

Imper. Sg. 3. *bað*, x. 25.

Ind. Pres. I. *am*, xiv. 10 ; *níom*, *mam*, viii. 27, 28 ; *načam*, xvi. 3. 1. *ro*, iv. 2, 10 ; *ʒrð að*, xxi. 119 ; *mat*, xiv. 22 ; *ʒurað*, xvi. 42. 3. 1. *ar*, *ar'* ; 1. *ar'*, *ar'* (rel.) ; neg. *ní n-* ; *noča*, ii. 23 ; *noča n-* (*nočan* ?) xvi. 14. Dep. Neg. *nač* ; *crð nač*, v. 38 ; *ó nač*, v. 184. + *má. máar* (Δ). + *má* + neg. *muna*, v. 88 ; xiii. 3 ; *munab*, viii. 4. + *ó. ór*. + *ʒo. ʒonað*, xvi. 163 ; xxviii. 45 ; *ʒur* (Δ) *b*, iv. 14 ; vi. 12 ; *ʒur*, xvi. 116. + *ʒé. ʒrð*, v. 135 ; vi. 17. + Prep. + Rel. *té na n-*, xxviii. 58 ; *tén n-*, xxviii. 59. *ara*, v. 91 ; xxiv. 27. *aʒ ar*, v. 53. *oán n-*, v. 116 ; vi. 23. *oaraab*, xx. 1 ; *oari*, xi. 16. *ar roab*, xviii. 28. Fut. Rel. *bur*, v. 3, 11. Condit. Sg. 3. *buð*, *bað* ; *ro buð*, vi. 78 ; *ba*, xix. 7 ; *ní buð*, v. 4 ; *ʒomað*, ii. 4 ; v. 56 ; *ʒur ba*, vi. 110 ; *nač ba* (ð), xiv. 29 ; xvi. 25 ; *naðb'*, xvi. 24 ; *té buð*, xx. 13 ; xxiii. 2. (Sbj. Pres. ?) ; *te mbað*, xviii. 38 (Pr. Sbj. ?). Pl. 2. *ʒur bað*, ii. 41. 3. *naðoaoir*, xv. 45.

Pret. Sg. 3. *ra n-* ; *rá n-* ; *ba* ; *ba* (rel.), xv. 42 ; xxix. 7 ; *bað'*, *buð'* (rel.), xviii. 115. *ro bað*, v. 66, 96 ; vi. 92 ; *ro b'*, iii. 8 ; xiii. 21 ; *ro b'*, ii. 29, v. 13 ; *roab'*, ii. 35 ; *roba*, xvi. 142 ; *arð'*, v. 153 ; xx. 12 ; *níorð'*, ii. 47 ; iii. 13 ; *níor'*, iii. 6 ; *níorðo*, vi. 183 ; *naðb'*, vi. 104 ; *nað'*, vi. 98 ; *načarð'*, v. 109 ; *nočar'*, xxviii. 45 ; *ʒur* (Δ) *b'*, xv. 15 ; *ʒur* (Δ) *b'*, v. 90 ; *ʒur'*, vi. 166 ; *ʒérð'*, iv. 8 ; *ʒerð'*, ix. 27 ; *ʒér*, ii. 49 ; *ʒerðo*, vi. 134 ; *munari*, v. 150 ; *oari* (Δ) *b'*, v. 37 ; *oariða n-*, xviii. 46 ; *oar'*, ii. 23 ; *ara rð*, xvii. 2 ; *rérb'*, vi. 139. Pl. 1. *ʒéarram*. 3. *níorrad*, i. 1, 6 ; *ʒéarrad*, i. 2.

Subj. Pres. Sg. 3. *ʒurab*, xv. 2 ; *naðab*, xiv. 8 ; xvi. 33 ; *mað*, vi. 2.

Subj. Past. Sg. 3. *bað*, *buð* ; *mar bað*, xvi. 46 ; *ná buð*, xiii. 26 ; *ačt mað*, xvi. 17, 86 ; *munab*, v. 4 ; *oamað*, *oámað*, iv. 26 ; v. 87 ; *ʒémað*, vi. 271. Pl. *oiamtoaoir*, xv. 45.

BEIRIM.

Imper. Sg. 2. *beir*. Pl. 2. *beirð*, ii. 13. Indic. Pres. Sg. 1. *beirim*. 3. (rel.) *beiræar*. Ps. *bearar*, *beirtear*, xvi. 109. Impf. Ps. -*beiræaoi*, xv. 62. Sbj. Pr. Sg. 1. *bearar*, ix. 17 (or Pass. ?)

Subj. Past. Sg. 3. -*beiræað*. Pl. 3. -*beirtoir*.

Fut. Ps. *béarar*.

Cond. Sg. 2. -*béarčá*. 3. -*béarað*. Pl. 3. -*béarotoaoir*. Ps. -*béaræaoi*.

Pret. Sg. 1. *ruʒar*. 2. *ruʒair*. 3. *ruʒ*. Pl. 3. *ro ruʒrad*, xv. 14 ; *ruʒrad* (rel.), xviii. 125. Ps. *ruʒað* ; -*ruʒað*.

Verb-noun, *breit* (g. *beirte*). Part. Nec. *bearčá*, xviii. 147.

ՈՍ ԾԵՐԻՄ.

Imper. Sg. 2. *տչ, տծար*. 3. *-տչած*. Pl. 2. *տծրած*; *տչսրծ, տչրծ (?)*, xviii. 31, *n*.

Ind. Pres. Sg. 1. *ոս Ծերիմ*. 2. *ոս Ծ(ե)րի*; *-տծրա*. 3. *ոս Ծ(ե)ր*; *տչ, vi. 195*; *-տչան*. Pass. *ոս Ծարար*; *-տչտար*.

Impf. Pl. 3. *-տչտաօր*.

Pret. Sg. 3. *տչ, vi. 99*; *ոս րած, ii. 25*; *iii., 4*; *vi. 37*; *-տար, vi. 249*; *x. 25*. Pl. *տչամար, v. 143*; 3. *տչրած, vi. 47*. Pass. *տչած, vi. 52*; *ոս րած, xxviii. 9*.

Fut. Sg. 1. *ոս Ծար*. 3. *ոս Ծարա*; *-տծրա*. Pass. *-տիծարտար*.

Cond. Sg. 1. *ոս Ծարսին*; *-տիծարին*. 2. *ոս Ծարժա*. 3. *ոս Ծարած*; *-տիծրած, -տիծարած*. Ps. *ոս Ծարժաօ*.

Subj. Pres. Sg. 1. *-տչար, v. 48*; *xxix. 37*.

Past. Sg. 2. *-տչժա*. Pl. 1. *-տչմաօր*. 3. *-տչտաօր*. Ps. *-տչժաօ*.

ԱՕԵՐԻՄ.

[Forms without *ա-* are used optionally as Rel., and after *չե, մար, մա.*]

Imper. Sg. 2. *ծար*.

Pres. Ind. Sg. 1. *(ա)Օ(ե)րիմ*; *-ծրամ*. 2. *(ա)Օ(ե)րի*; *-ծրա*. 3. *(ա)Օ(ե)ր*. Pl. 2. *աօրիժի, -ժի, աօարժաօ*. 3. *աօրիտ*. Ps. *-աօարժար*.

Imperf. Pl. 3. *աօրիտօր, աօարտաօր*.

Subj. Pres. Sg. 2. *ծարա*. Pl. 3. *-ծրած*.

Past Sg. 1. *-ծրան*. 3. *-ծրած*.

Fut. Sg. 1. *(ա)Օար*; *-աիծար*. 3. *(ա)Օարա*.

Condit. Sg. 1. *աօարսին*; *-աիծարսին*. 3. *(ա)Օարած*. Pl. 3. *աօարտաօր*. Ps. *աօարժաօ*.

Pret. Sg. 1. *(ա)Օիծար*; *-Օիծար*; *-եծար*. 2. *աՕիծար*. 3. *(ա)Օիծար*; *-Օիծար*; *-եծար*. Pl. *-Օիծարամ*. Ps. *Օիծրած*; *-Օիծրած*.

Verb-noun, *րած*; *րածա, vi. 6*; *gen. րիտ, xviii. 46*.

ՇԱԾԱՄ.

Imper. *շած*.

Pres. Ind. Sg. 1. *շածամ*. Pl. 2. *շածժաօ*. Rel. *շածար*. Ps. *շածժար*.

Subj. Pres. Ps. *-շածար, xxviii. 71*.

Subj. Past. Pl. 3. *-շածտաօր, v. 176*.

Fut. Sg. 1. *շեծած, xxii. 23*; *-շեծ, xiv. 68*.

Condit. Sg. 3. *-շեծած, vi. 127*; *xiv. 33*.

Pret. Sg. 3. *շածար, xxviii. 20*; *շիծի, iv. 59*; *ոս շած*; *ոս շած*. Pl. 3. *շածրած, i. 2*; *-շածրած, vi. 254*.

Verb-noun, *շածալ*.

ԾՈ ՏԵԻԾՈՒՄ.

Imper. Sg. 2. բաճալ, vi. 122.

Pres. Ind. Sg. 1. -բաճալմ. 3. ԾՈ ՏԵԻԾ ; -բաճան ; բաճ' (rel.), xviii. 134. Ps. -բաճ(ե)ար.

Impf. Ps. -բաճեալ.

Subj. Pres. Sg. 3. -բաճ, ix. 30. Pl. 1. (բ)աճամ, v. 64 ; vi. 33. Pl. 2. -բաճալե, vii. 17. Ps. -բաճ(ե)ա(լ)ր.

Subj. Past. Sg. 2. -բաճեա. 3. -բաճա. Pl. 3. -բաճալար.

Fut. Sg. 2. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԱ ; -բալից, v. 71. 3. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԱ ; -բալից. Pl. 2. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԵԱԼԻ ; -բալիցի. 3. -բալիցեա. Ps. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԵԱ(Լ)Ր ; -բալիցեար, -բալիցեար, xiv. 31.

Cond. Sg. 1. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԱԻՆ ; -բալիցն. 2. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԵԱ ; -բալիցեա, xxvii. 2. 3. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԱԾ ; -բալիցեա. Ps. ԾՈ ՏԵԱԾԵԱԼԻ, v. 118 ; -բալիցի ; -բալիցի, v. 22.

Pret. (նո, նիւր, etc., not used) Sg. 1. բարար ; -բարար. 2. բարար ; -բարար. 3. բար ; -բար ; -բարարար, xxix. 11. Pl. 2. բարոբար ; -բարոբար. 3. բարրեա ; -բարրեա ; -բարարար, vi. 33. Ps. բր(ո)ւ ; -բր(ո)ւ.

Verb-noun, բաճ(ե)ալ.

ԲԱՅԾԱԼՄ.

Ind. Pres. Sg. 3. բայծար, vi. 129. Rel. բայծար. Subj. Pres. Sg. 3. -բայծա. Pret. Sg. 1. -բայծար. 3. բայծար, ii. 34. Fut. Pl. 1. -բայլեամ, xxix. 28.

ԾՈՆՏԾԱԼՄ.

Imper. Sg. 3. լոնծար. Pl. 2. լոնծար. Pres. Ind. Pl. 3. լոնծար.

Pret. Sg. 1. -լոնծար. 2. -լոնծար. Verb-noun, լոնծալ.

ԾՈՅԾԱԼՄ.

Imper. Pl. 2. լոյծար. Pret. Sg. 3. լոյծար, ii. 32 ; -լոյծալ. Ps. -լոյծա. Fut. Sg. 1. -լոյլեա, v. 7. Verb-noun, լոյծալ.

ԾՈ ՆԻՄ.

Imper. Sg. 2. նեմ, x. 4 ; xxiii. 6. Pl. 2. նեմար.

Ind. Pres. Sg. 1. ԾՈ ՆԻՄ. 2. նեմ. 3. ԾՈ ՆԻ ; -նեման. Pl. 2. ԾՈ ՆԻԼԻ. 3. ԾՈ ՆԻԱ. Ps. -նեմար.

Imperf. Sg. 1. -նեմն. 3. ԾՈ ՆԻՍ.

Subj. Pres. Sg. 2. -նեմա, xviii. 38. Pl. 3. -նեմար. Ps. -նեմար.

Subj. Past. Sg. 1. -նեման. 2. -նեմա. 3. ԾՈ ՆԵԼ, vi. 247 ; -նեմա. Pl. 3. -նեմարար. Ps. -նեմարար.

Fut. Sg. 1. ոո չեան ; -ուոյնչեան. 3. -ուոնչնա.

Cond. Sg. I. -τιονγνωιν. 3. το ξέανθ; -τιονγνωθ. Pl. I. το ξέανμαι. 3. το ὕξανθοισι.

Pret. (po, nioſ, etc., not used) Sg. I. ʋo pōnur ; ʋo punnear, xvi. 8 ; -ʋearnar. 2. ʋo punnor ; ʋo puſnor ; ʋo pōnar ; -ʋearnar. 3. ʋo punne ; -ʋearna. Pl. I. -ʋearnram. 2. -ʋearnaðar. 3. ʋo pōnarʋ, ii. 47 ; -ʋearnarʋ, vi. 148 ; -ʋearnaʋar, xviii. 126. Ps. ʋo p(o)innearð ; ʋo pōnarð ; -ʋearnarð.

Part. Necess. $\nu\acute{\epsilon}\alpha\nu\tau\alpha$. Verb-noun, $\nu\acute{\epsilon}\alpha\nu\alpha\iota$, $\nu\acute{\epsilon}\iota\nu\alpha\iota$ (dat. for nom.), v. 46, 49, III.

AD-čím, DO-čím.

Imper. Pl. 1. ρ αιceam, xxii. 2 ; xxviii. 62.

Ind. Pres. Sg. 1. ὄω εἶναι; -φαίνομ. 2. ὄω εἶναι; -φαίνομ. Pl. 2. ὄω εἶναι; -φαίνομ. Ps. ὄω εἶναι; -φαίνομ, xviii. 145. Subjunctive. Pl. 1. ὄω εἶναι, xxii. 22. Condit. Sg. 3. εἴθεον (rel.) ii. 52. Pret. (πο, νίον, etc., not used) Sg. 1. ὄω εἶναι; -φαίνομ. 3. ὄω εἶναι; ὄω εἶναι; -φαίνομ. Ps. -φαίνομ, vi. 82; x. 20. Verb-noun, φαίνομ.

Ad-čluunim, do-čluunim.

Imper. Pl. 2. cluinro, xi. 4. Ind. Pres. Sg. I. -cluinim. 2. -cluine. Pl. 2. -cluincti; do-cluincti. 3. -cluinro. Ps. cluintear (rel.); -cluintear; -cloirtear. Subj. Pres. Ps. -cluinctir, -tear. Fut. Ps. cluinfróear. Pret. Sg. I. do-éala; ro-é.; ro-é. 2. -cuatair. 3. ro éala(ro); -cuata. Pl. ro éalaimair. 2. do-éalabhair. Ps. at élor; ro élor; ro élor; -clor. Verb-noun, clor; cluinrin; cloiróin.

τέλειον.

Imper. Sg. 2. εἰρς, vi. 262. Ind. Pres. Sg. 1. τέισιμ. 3. τέιο Pl. 3. τιᾷσι, xxviii. 8. τιᾶν, v. 107. Rel. τέρεαρ. Impf. Pl. 3. τέισοιρ. Ps. τέιστί, v. 87. Subj. Pres. Sg. 3. -ρεᾶς, ii. 8; xv. 18. Subj. Past. Sg. 1. -ρεᾶσαιιν. 3. -ρεᾶσᾶν. Pl. 1. -ρεᾶσαιοιρ. 3. -ρεᾶσαιοιρ. Fut. Sg. 3. ρᾶα; -ραᾶ; -ραᾷ. Pl. 1. -ραᾶμ. Rel. ρᾷαρ. Condit. Sg. 3. -ραᾶν. Pret. Sg. 1. -ρεᾶαρ. 3. ῶ εἰαῖν (ᾶ-, ᾷ-). 3. -ρεᾶα; -ρεᾶσᾶν; -ιῶν, x. 12. Pl. 3. ιῶσαιρ, xxii. 29. Verb-noun, ῶν, ῶν. Part. Nec. ῶντα.

τ151m.

Imper. Sg. 2. ταρ, xxii. 2; xxiv. 17; τοιρεε, τδ-, xxii. 19, 31.
3. τιγεαθ, ii. 37. Pl. 2. τιγιοθ, xvi. 75, 81. Ind. Pres. Sg. 3. τιγ; -τιγ.
Pl. 1. -τιγμιοθ. 3. Ps. -τεαγδαρ, xxiii. 7; -τιγτιρ, xxii. 4.
Imperf. Pl. 3. -τιγιοιρ. Subj. Pres. Sg. 3. -τι, x. 27; xiv. 17. Subj.

Past. Sg. 3. -τιοραῶ, v. 62; xviii. 129. Pl. 3. -τιγοίρ, xxviii. 21; Fut. Sg. 2. -ταρξαιρ,¹ vii. 9. 3. τιορφα; -τιορφα; ταρξα,¹ vii. 15. Condit. Sg. 2. -τιορφα. 3. -τιορφαῶ. Pret. (ρο, νίορ, etc., not used). Sg. 3. τάνις; ὅο ἀνις, viii. 10; -τάνις. Pl. 3. τάνξανορ; -τάνξανορ, Ps. τάνξυρ, v. 35. Verb-noun, τοῖδεαῖτ; τοίξεαῖτ; τεαῖτ, τεαῖτα), v. 30; τοῖτ, xxviii. 7.

ΡΟΙCΙM, ΡΙΞΙM, etc.

Ind. Pres. Sg. 1. ριξιμ, vi. 95. 3. ροιῖ, xv. 75; xxv. 12; (ρειῖ also common). Subj. Pres. Sg. 1. -ρῖα, ii. 31; 3. -ρῖ, vii. 5; xviii. 91; Pl. 3. ροιρῖο, ii. 31. Fut. Sg. 3. -ρῖ (Subj. form), xxiii. 18. Pret. Sg. 3. ὅο ροιῖ, xxiii. 12; ράνις; -ράνις; ὅο ρυαῖτ, v. 38; -ρῖαῖτ, vi. 149. Pl. 2. ράνξανορ.

ΤΥΙΤΙM.

Pret. Sg. 3. τυιτιρ, vi. 216; ὅο τυιτ; ὅο ἔαρ, v. 182; vi. 132; ἄο ροῖαιρ, vi. 136, 172, 213; τορῖαιρ, iv. 65; vi. 218; ὅο ροῖαιρ, vi. 213 (v.l.), 172 (v.l.); -τορῖαιρ, iv. 18; vi. 220. Pl. τορῖρανορ, iv. 10; -τυιτρεαῶ, xviii. 165.

ΡΕΑΘΑΡ.

Ind. Pres. Sg. 1. ὅο ρεαοαρ, vi. 123; -ρεαοαρ, vi. 176. 2. -ρεαουρ (-ρῖορ, v.l.), v. 186. 3. -ρεαοαιρ, xviii. 91. Pl. 1. εαοαμαρ (rel.), xvi. 104. Subj. Pres. Ps. -ρεαρταρ, ix. 4. Subj. Past. Sg. 1. -ρεαραιμν. Pret. Ps. ρο ρεαρ, ix. 9; ἄο ρεαρ, xviii. 136; -ρεαρ, xxix. 11.

ΤΑΡΡΑΙῶ.²

Pret. (ρο, νίορ, etc., not used) Sg. 1. -τάρρτερ, ix. 28. 2. -τάρ(ρ)ῖαιρ, xii. 8. 3. τάρρραῶ, iv. 20, 23; vi. 150; xxiii. 5; -τάρρραῶ, iv. 20; vi. 63. Pl. 1. -τάρρτεαμαρ, viii. 12n. 2. τάρρτυβαιρ, τάρρτυβαιρ, viii. 12. Ps. τάρρτεαρ, v. 83; -τάρρτερ, v. 16.

PREPOSITIONS.

Δῆ. + Poss. Adj. Sg. 2. ῥατ. 3. ῥά. + Rel. ῥά n-, vi. 11; Δῆ ναῖ, xvi. 103.

Δρ. [composite of OI. *air* (dat. acc.) and *for* (acc.)]. Aspirates irregularly. ρορ, vi. 165. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. ορ(α)μ. 2. ορ(ε)τ.

¹ Protot. form of ὅο-ρεξα, an *a*-Subj. used as Fut. of do-tiagu. 3. Sg. is used as theme for S.-Fut., thought by poets to be connected with ταρῖαῖτ.

² <to-ad-vo-reth or to-ad-air-reth. The Pret. Pass. τάρρταρ, τάρρταρ, gave by false analogy a Pret. Act. 1. τάρρρταρ. 2. τάρρρταρ. Ταιρ, S.-Subj stem, forms a new stem whence τάρρτεαρ and fut. τάρρρεαῶ, etc.

3. M. αἶρε ; φαῖρ, vi. 120. F. αἶρρε. Pl. 1. οἶρην, οἶρνε. 2. οἶραιβ, οἶρβ, xxii. 21. 3. οἶρα-ῖοε (?), xi. 3. + Rel. ἀρ ἄ n- ; ἀρ ἀρ' ; ἀρ ἡδ, xviii. 50.

ἀρ. [ἄ n- before accented words, ἀρ before proclitics] + Rel. ἀρ ἄ n-

ὄε by itself is always written οο ; οο and οε are indistinguishable in composition with article, possess. adj., Relative, οον ; οομ, οοο, οά, οἰα ; οά n-, οάρ. Before ζαc and βαρ οο is written οα. οο + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. οάμ. 2. οοιτ, οοιρ, οειτ, οειρ. 3. M. οό. F. οί, οί. Pl. 1. ούν(η), ούν(η). 2. οδοῖβ, οῖβ. 3. οάῖβ, οοῖβ. οε + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. οῖομ. 2. οῖοτ. 3. M. οέ, οε ; F. οί, οί. Pl. 1. οῖνν. 2. οῖβ, 3. οῖοβ, οῖβ.

φο (φα). α. φο' = under. β. φα' = im (about). γ. φα in φα ρεαc. + Rel. φα n- ; φάρ'.

ζαν aspirates irregularly.

ζο n- "with." + Poss. Adj. ζο n-α, ii. 34 ; ii. 41.

ζο n- "to." + Art. Sg. ζυρ αν, iv. 55. Pl. ζυρ να, xxviii. 19. + Poss. Adj. ζο α, vi. 239 ; xviii. 107. N.B. ζυρ ανοιρ, xvii. 1 ; xxiii. 9. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. έζαμ. Pl. 2. έζαῖβ. 3. έζα, έζα, xi. 10.

1 (α) n-, (ιονν, ανν, especially before ζαc, v. 48, 154, and βαρ, xvi. 120). + Art. ραν', ραν n-, ιρ αν n-, ρα n- (often no affection in MSS.), ιρ, αρ especially before τῖς and τῖρ, cf. iv. 10 ; v. 102 ; vi. 73 ; xiv. 26. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 3. ανν ; ινν, xvi. 63 ; αν(η)ρém, vi. 4. + Poss. Adj. Sg. 1. um, im. 2. αο ; ιο. 3. ι n-α, ιονα. + Rel. ι n- ; ι(ο)να n- ; xvi. 100 ; xv. 68 ; ι(ο)ναρ'.

ιαρ n-. + Poss. Adj. Sg. 2. αρ ναο', xvi. 63. 3. ιαρ n-α, vi. 83.

(ε)ιοιρ, εαοαρ, generally aspirates. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 2. εαορμαο xiv. 69η. Pl. 1. εαορμῖνν ; εαορμῖνν, xiv. 69.

im, um. + Poss. Pron. Sg. 3. M. uime, i. 10 ; F. impe. + Art im αν n- ; mun, ii. 47. + Rel. uma n-

le, la (<OI. *la* and *fri*). + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. ιομ, ιεαμ. 2. ιεατ, ιατ. 3. M. ιαιρ, ιειρ. F. ιέ. Pl. 1. ιινν, ιιονν, xxx. 23. 2. ιῖβ. 3. ιεο. + Poss. Adj. ιε α ; ιε n-α (?), xvi. 49. + Rel. ιε n-, iv. 10 ; ιέρ' ; ιειρ ηαc. + Art. ιειρ αν n-.

ὀ. + Art. ὀν. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. uam. 2. uait, uait. 3. M. uait(e), xvi. 89 ; uat(α), xxviii. 11, 45. Pl. 1. uain(η) ; uan, xxx. 23. 3. uatα, uaitῖβ, xviii. 139 ; uatῖβ. + Poss. Adj. ὀμ, ὀτ, ὀ α, ὀ αρ. + Rel. ὀ n-, ὀρ'.

ὀρ, uap aspirates irregularly. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 2. uapao, v. 186 ; x. 26. 3. M. uapa. F. uapce. Pl. 3. uapῖβ, x. 17.

Re n- (<OI. *fri* and *la*). + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. ρ(ι)ομ. 2. ρ(ι)οτ. 3. M. ριρ, ριρεαν. ii. 4 ; F. ρα, vi. 22 ; xxiii. 15. Pl. 1. ρ(u)ῖνν. 2. ρ(u)ῖβ. 3. ρ(ι)ύ, xxvii. 19. (?) + Poss. Adj. ρém, ρέτ, ρε α (ρέ n-α, xv. 49.

Re(ria) n-, poim, xviii. 122. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. poim; peamam; póm, vi. 96; 2. poimao; -t; peamao; -t; pód, vi. 139; 3. M. poime, peime, iv. 37; vi. 117. F. poimpe, peimpe. Pl. 1. poiminn, peaminn, póinn(e). 2. poimab, peamab, póib. 3. pómpa, peampa. + Poss. Adj. ria n-a, vi. 169. + Art. riar in n-, vi. 218; xvi. 54; xv. 34.

Seac. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 3. peaca. Pl. 1. peacainn.

Car aspirates irregularly. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 1. car(u)m. 2. carc. 3. M. cairur, cairair. F. cairre, xiv. 33. Pl. 3. car(r)ra, xi. 2; xviii. 153; xxi. 19. + Art. car an n-. + Rel. car narb; car nac.

Cre', cri'. + Pers. Pron. Sg. 3. criu, vii. 6, 15; criem(e)it, ix. 7. + Poss. Adj. cre n-a, xvi. 93. + Rel. cre nac, xvi. 85.

ADVERBIAL AND PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES.

Vid. Voc. sub. aba, aóbar, aóar, aineol, airu, air, aitle, aitur, alt, amac, amurá, amuis, anall, doi, barr, béal, bícin, bun, cár, céadóir, ceann, cian, commeap, comair, comérom, conclann, cor, cúir, cúl, cor, dál, deaóar, diau, dóis, oruim, éasmar, earbuar, eimeac, éir, fail, farrao, feact, feaó, ferom, focair, geall, gnát, gné, gnáó, lám, lár, láair, lea, leat, leatá, lor, moó, muin, nóir, oipeao, peact, pian, piar, pioct, ríat, ríoc, ríoc, ron, ronnrao, rúil, taob, torac, trát, tuairim, tuilleao, túr, uair, uet.

CONSTRUCTIONS WITH ABSTRACT NOUNS.

Notice o'feabar é' ealaúna, iii. 1; xv. 8; dá treire, vi. 137, 188; xviii. 133; xxviii. 58; ir a uract a tuigrin, xvi. 48; act a goire do bí, vi. 37; cre n-a mionca . . aoir, xvi. 93; a méao vi. 244.

PART V.

BOOKS, POEMS, POETS REFERRED TO.

Vid. sub. airdean; airtear Ó Ioréain; doó Albanac; dro maca, breac, brogan; bruigan; Camin, cairc, Cairéal, canaim, ceapc, Ciapán, Cionnaoir Ó harpaóain, Columb, Comóan, Comóall, Cormac, Dinneanar, Dub Dá leite, Éire óg, Feirceirne, Fingin, Fiteall, Flann McLonáin, Gabáil, Gabáitar, Giolla Moúda, Gleann Dá loca, Guile, Inir Caóis, I. Cloéran, Iur, Mac Liag, Maó Laisean, Maolmhuir, Moéua, Moíann, Mucpoime, Néroe, oóar, réim, polla, teacta, Teamair, toémarc, toóail, Tuam.

BATTLES REFERRED TO.

Vid. sub. *Arb* *Ureacám*, *Deann Éadair*, *Uiochlann*, *Calgac*, *Corn Forroroma*, *Car Sunne*, *Ceall ua n'Daigre*, *Ceall Ornac*, *Ceann Corac*, *C. Feabrac*, *C. Mağair*, *Craob Tolca*, *Crionna*, *Oruim Damğaire*, *Duiblinn*, *Ear Ruac*, *Éirne*, *Fearta Nime*, *Ğabair*, *Ğeirill*, *Ğrian Ciac*, *Loc b'Feabail*, *Luimneac*, *Mağ Adair*, *m. Ureag*, *m. Ioca*, *m. Laiğean*, *m. Léana*, *Mucromie*, *Muine bpocan*, *Oileac*, *Rac Comair*, *R. Cpuacna*, *Ğiaç Neacain*, *Ğiac ĞCua*, *S. fuaro*, *S. nealpa*, *Sulcoio*, *Teamair*, *Tpáig Li*.

TREES REFERRED TO.

Bite an Maige, vi. 252; *Eo Ropra*, etc., iv. 31.

Ἰομαρβῶας ἡδ' Ὀφίλειος

THE CONTENTION OF THE BARDS

Ionaidh na b'fillead.

I.

MO DÁ DÁLTÁN NÍORSAD LIÚIN. TORNA CCT.

- I. MO DÁ DÁLTÁN NÍORRAT LIÚIN ¹ . Níall Teannra Corc Cairil éúin
Ua Eogain móir a mac . Ua Cuinn marí Conn céad-éadac.
2. Sadrat éúinn móir a mbriog . ba comócormuil a gcóimhneóm
zérrat teann Níall neart nsoile ² . níor fáom Corc a ionnroige.
3. Sé do éuaró go hAlbain áin . Níall mac Eodac Muig-meadáin
do macat Corc reaca roir . muna mbeit Níall ré a'garó.
4. Ní fáca fear amail Níall . a'g ionnraige eadcrann go cian
ní fáca fear amail Corc . dar luait arn tana taob-noct.
5. Noa nfaca diair ba fearr . i dtír do tírú éireann
ba zéire zairgeat zona . ir clearrat a n-aró-boga.
6. Ionmáin déide a Dé do nim . níorrat uaité aipeannais
Níall i zcuirm-teac Cuinn céad n'gal . Corc mac Luigéac
plait Muman.
7. Ir mé Torna párdéar roinn . mo dá d'álda an dír párdim
dom réir do t'goir zac lá . mo dá mac mo dá d'álda.
8. Do b'aoibinn d'ain no bui real . idir Teannrais ir Cairéal
ó Teannrais go Cairéal cain . ótá Cairéal go Teannrais.
9. Tan do binn marí don ir Níall . mé do bíod a'g r'naidm na n'iall
tan do binn marí don ir Corc . ba mé a comáirleac com-nort.
10. Ir uime do éúinn Níall . dom leit d'eir fa caom an éall
ar uairle an leite d'eir oil . do mac ríog éireann eadcras.
11. Ir uime do éúinn Corc . dom leit éli níor caomtác doct
ar foigre a cuirp dom éroide . do beit Cuirc na comnuide.
12. Ué zan Corc ua Eogain áin . ué zan Níall ua Cuinn comlám
ué zan Níall na tíre coir . ué zan Corc ceann-aró Cairil.
13. Do b'uir mo éonn ir mo éall . ó nac marí an rí ro-Níall
do b'uir mo éall ir mo éorp . ó nac marí an rí ro-Corc.
14. Leat Cuinn fa éior ir fa éain . d'éir mic Eodac Muig-
meadáin,
d'éir mic Luigéac nar luait zó . do éuaró leat Moza a
murá.

MO DÁ.

¹ Cf. Windisch. Wört. lén. For vocalism, cf. Thurney. I., § 53. ² Cf. "mac
i caom céadéa zóile," f. ón éainte, RIA 23 F. 16, p. 202, v. 20. ³ K. II.
372, 382-4.

1. My two pupils they were not idle.¹ Niall of Teamhair, Corc of quiet Caiseal. Great Eoghan's descendant, great was his fortune. Conn's descendant was like Conn the Hundred-fighter.
2. They ruled Eire, great was their vigour. Equal were their deeds. Though they (both) were strong Corc dared not attack Niall the battle-stay.²
3. Though Niall, son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhon went to splendid Alba, Corc would have gone further east had not Niall been against him.³
4. I have seen no man like Niall attacking foreigners afar. Of all who brandished the thin bare sword I have seen none like Corc.
5. In any part of Eire I have not seen a greater pair, keener in valorous deeds of battle and in feats of high-archery.
6. Dear were the two, O God of Heaven. They were not lonely chieftains (?) Niall in the ale-house of Conn of the hundred fights, Corc son of Lughaidh, prince of Mumha.
7. I am Torna who speak the verses. My two pupils are the pair I speak of. Every day they obeyed me, my two sons, my two pupils.
8. Pleasant to me once upon a time were both Teamhair and Caiseal, (going) from Teamhair to fair Caiseal and from Caiseal to Teamhair.
9. At times I used to be with Niall, and it was I who bound his hostages. At times I used to be with Corc and I was his strong counsellor.
10. I used to place Niall on my right hand—it was a gracious plan—so that my own right side should do honour to the son of the valorous King of Eire.
11. I used to place Corc on my left side—he was no surly companion—so that Corc might be at peace owing to his being near my heart.
12. Alas for the loss of Corc great Eoghan's scion! Alas for Niall scion of perfect Conn! Alas for Niall of the East! Alas, for high-headed Corc of Caiseal.
13. My wit and my sense are destroyed since the great Niall the King lives no more. Broken is my sense and my strength since great Corc the King lives not.
14. Conn's Half is under rent and tribute after the death of the son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhon. Mogh's Half is gone to ruin after the death of the son of Lughaidh who never spoke falsehood.

Ṭ ḌĪL CAṬA ṬOIR CORC IS NIALL. TORNA cct.

1. ṬḌĪL¹ caṭa ṭoir Corc ir Niall · i ḅpoṣur nō i n-ṭoir-ēian
borb a tpeaṭan ar ṣaḅ tṛáig · Niall mac Eadac Muig-
meaḍáin.
2. Niall mac Eodac tig a ṭuaró · fairṛing tpeaṭan a tṛom-
ṫuaig
ṫuaill naḅ ṛṣoitro neoill nime · a tṛeoin ar a ṭairṫeige.²
3. Mí meara rian Cairil Cuirc · i leit ṛe ṫéanam ṣaḅ uile
ṫine Cuirc míc Luigḥeac lán · mo éion ḅior ṣá n-íomṣabáil.
4. A ṭubairt Corc Cairil éáin · ṣomaḅ i a ṫulaḅ Teamair
'ṛ naḅ ṛṣarṫaḅ ṫipean ṫé linn · ná ṫe ṫíol Oiliolla Ólunn.
5. Na caṭa ṭo éur a-mac · a ṭubairt Niall mac Eadac
'ṛ naḅ ṛṣarṫaḅ ṫipean ṫé lá · ṣomaḅ leit Teamair Luacra.
6. Ó ṭ'cuata Corc an ṣuṫ ṣarṣ · ṭo ṫáḅ ṭo Niall ṭpeac-
nuai-ṫearṣ
ṫeaṣṫair⁴ Corc um tṫáṫ nōna · ceitṫe caṭa com-mópa.
7. Ḍirṫrō aṣam a míc · a Cuirc míc Luigḥeac lán-ṣlic
ṣo n-aigillinn Niall ṣan on · céro ann ṣaḅ iac na ṫuaṫar.
8. Ḍirṫ aṣam a ṫuaṣ · ir ṭo ṣéabṫaoi uaim a luac
ṣo nveac m'orve ṣlan ṣarṫa · ṭ'aṣallaim mo comṫalta.
9. Iar-rin téigim-ṫe ṣo ḅóinn · baíl i ṫaibe leaṫ Cuinn éoir
ir aigillim Niall an áig · ṭoitṫe ṫamṫa ná ṣaḅ ṭáil.
10. Fiaṫṫuiṣir Niall na naoi nṣiall · an ṫior ṣo nṭubairt Corc éiar
Teamair íorṫaḅ⁵ Cuinn éaṫaig · ṣo léigṫinn i ṭ'anṫlaṫaḅ.
11. Mí cuata-ṫa rin ó Corc · a ṭubairt Torna naṫ ṫoḅṫ
a ṫeirṫo Munniṫ a muiṣ · ní naḅ leanaṫ a laocṫaḅ.
12. Ṭo ṫáṫṫeaḅ leaṫ Cuinn éaṫaḅ · Corc Cairil ṭo ṫeit béaṫaḅ.
maṫ ar ṣṫáṫ ṭo mṫacaom óṣ · lán ṭo baoir ir ṭo baṫṫ-ṣlór.
13. Ná beirṫo a léill náṫaig · béim ar míc Luigḥeac lán-ṣlan
móṫ ṫairm a ṫige ṫa nōin · ṫeaṫair comimear a com-óil.
14. Mí mionann ṫam-ṫa aṣur ṫó · ṭo ṫáṫ Niall naḅar éan ṣó
nuair ṭo ḅíṫo Corc óṫ éionn cláir · ṭo ḅinn-ṫe óṫ éionn mo
leaḅṫáin.
15. Ir meirṫe ṫa-ṫeaṫa ṫó · Teamair Cuinn ṭo luac lé ló
'ṫ naḅ ṫuiṫeaḅ mṫr an meṫ-óil · ṣan caṫ ó élainn Éireamóin.
16. Mí éiubṫainn baile i Muniam · ṭo Corc ṭo éin ó Luṫaró
ṣan éior ar ṭo éloinn ṫuaṫail · nō ṣleo caṭa ir com-ṫuaṫair.

¹ Cf. Dineen, sub ṫáil. ² Cf. "Ṭo éṫoṫnuigṫeaḅ mṫil nime ṫé ṫeṫṫe
ir ṫe ṫairṫeige." Poem by ṫlann mac Ionáin, T.C.D., 1281, v. 5. ³ n. Castle
Island, Co. Kerry. ⁴ Cf. ṫeaṣṫar, order, arrangement, "Ḍéṫ ní ar eaṣal a
ṫáḅ ṫub · ṫo ṫán na ṫeaṣṫar éuaṫṫil." ṫ. ón Cáinte, RIA 23 L. 17, p. 149,
v. 17. ⁵ íorṫaḅ < O.I. etsad, treasure, treasury, v. K. Mey. McConglinne's
Vis Gloss.

1. As for the battle ¹ between Corc and Niall near or afar, bold on every shore was the fury of Niall, son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhoin.
2. Niall son of Eochaidh comes from the North. Far-flung are the tracks of his heavy host. His heroes almost split the clouds, such is their fury.²
3. Not inferior is the band of Corc of Caiseal in working all ruin. I approve him who avoids the race of Corc son of great Lughaidh.
4. Corc of fair Caiseal said that Teamhair would be his eminence, and that never would it part from him in his life, nor from the race of Oilíoll Olum.
5. Niall son of Eochaidh ordered the ranks to be led out and said that Teamhair should never part from him in his life, and that Teamhair Luachra ³ should be his.
6. When Corc heard the rough words of Niall of the fresh ruddy face he marshalled ⁴ at eventide his four equally great battalions.
7. "Stay, my son Corc son of wily Lughaidh, till I speak with blameless Niall who makes his onset on every land."
8. "Stay, my troops"! (says Corc). "You shall benefit by it, till my noble honourable master go to speak with my fellow-pupil."
9. Then I go to the Boinn where was fair Conn's Half, and I speak to valiant Niall. More grievous was it to me than any meeting.
10. Niall of the nine hostages asked "Is it true that Corc in the West said that I would let usurpers take Teamhair, the steading ⁵ of battling Conn?"
11. "I heard not that from Corc," said Torna gently. "The men of Mumha out there say things which their warriors do not approve."
12. Hundred-fighting Conn's Half said that Corc was insolent, as is the way of a young hero full of foolishness and vain-boasting.
13. "Find not fault, O noble Niall, with the son of glorious Lughaidh. Great is the uproar of his house at even-tide. It is hard to pass judgment on his revel."
14. "He is not as I," said Niall, who never uttered falsehood. "When Corc used to be at table (drinking) I used to be over my book.
15. It is drunkenness that made him in the daytime thus mention Conn's Teamhair, for he would never get the mead-drinking manor from Eireamhon's sons without a fight.
16. I would not leave a townland in Mumha to Corc descendant of Lughaidh, but he must pay rent for it to Tuathal's sons, or else face the din and shock of battle."

17. Dual do Còipe a chuir o'Éirinn • a léill cat-buaðais céib-
fínn
fuarf Éibear fionn na b'fleaó-ól • leat Éireann ó Éireamón.
18. Ait'peac o'Éibear a fínead • re hÉireamón mac Mílead
do tuit ór dá luad linne • i gcat glórac Séirille.
19. Do tuit ceit'pe mic Éibir • la hÍual b'fáró b'fínn-féinníó
leit-bliadain a b'fai'cear lór³ • Éir O'pba feargna fearón.
20. Do tuit Connáol mac Éibir • fear claoim-b'peacac nac
céillíó
a tuitim ir beart bágaó • le Tigeanníar tréan-láimac.
21. Roinnir Eogán na d'iaig rin • Éire rubre a léill nemhíng
fuarf an t'peagan donn⁷ da'ac • ceirt-leat ó Conn céao-
cacaó.
22. Ait'peac o'Eogán fa'óeiread • comínear re Conn na ngeimeal
ar t'ceacó dóib ar Maig léana • cian bur buan a ait-méala.
23. Trí pícro dár dual nige • do macaib t'riat bar t'píre
do tuit i b'farrad Eogáin • no'ca ráó fíri ain-eolais.
24. Píce céao táimic ó a t'ig • f'raoé fíot'nai'peac mac Éibir
a b'fágbáil ní linne ar loet • fa' c'oraib con ir cuanort.
25. Do raó Soll ceann na gcu'rad • do cóis i gceann píog
Munán
gur blo'ad leir enáma a éinn • gur liat an lár dá incínn.
26. Nac cumhíge cat Gabra • a léill a daltáin m'anma
do tuit tíar ir in ta'car • rean-a'air do rean-a'ar.
27. Ní hiaó Munhíng do marb rin • a t'orna móp-dálais m'ir
aet buannaóa fínn éadair • an fíri fálla il-b'péagais.
28. A'á Éire ag cloinn Cairbre • ní fuil ois'peacé ar a'iríe
ní m'air fear puag'a fíad'ais • annrúnn do na reim-fíannab.
29. Éagóirí com-maoréam Cairbre • do b'f'ogur tuit a Cairíe
móir do leat-t'rom gan loige • fuam oram a ap'o-oroe.
30. Fuarf a' reacé n-uróil uaim • gaé a b'fuarf o' Còipe
éruaró
leat c'roó na g'píoc do é'peac'ar • ar Còipe bíor a bur'peac'ar.
31. Ní d'ingéan-fa' píot re Còipe • nó go ma Cairéal na g'noc
nó go ríoríó liom ba éuaró • b'ráig'oe Munán an móp-
fíluais.

¹ K II., 96, etc. ² K II. 104. ³ For lór used attributively, cf. "ir
cóir f'ór m'ár éigíon rin • an t'ea'g-éoil lór do gl'ac'ó" aré ó Caoim, RIA
23 G. 21, p. 171, v. 2. ⁴ K II. 116. ⁵ K II. 120. ⁶ K II. 264. ⁷ donn used
often of blood. Cf. f'íoríó-óiríge an t'eitge óuinn. Δ. Ó Dálais, R.I.A. 23 D.
13, p. 27, v. 8; "Éac'a a éaol-íga ná a éuit'g óuinn" f. mc an b'airí, RIA
23 C 23, p. 222, v. 42. It is used often of face, cheeks, etc., perhaps referring
to their high blood colour. A stranger example is "a óéio-íeal' donn" of
the Blessed Virgin. Δ. Ó Dálais, RIA 23 B. 35. ⁸ K II. 266. ⁹ f'raoé
míleapac, son of Éibear, King of Spain. Cf. Battle of ma'gléana, O'Curry.
¹⁰ C.A. 35. ¹¹ K II. 354. ¹² i.e. Cairbre Uí'peac'ar.

17. "Entitled is Corc to his share of Eire, O fair haired triumphant Niall, Eibhear Fionn of the feasts got half of Eire from Eireamhon." ¹
18. (Niall). "Sorry was Eibhear that he pitted himself against Eireamhon, Mile's son. He fell—since his name has come up—in the wild fight of Geisill." ²
19. There fell, too, Eibhear's four sons at the hands of the prophet Irial the fair hero; their rule lasted a half year, long enough, ³ Er Orba Feargna Fearon. ⁴
20. Conmaol, Eibhear's son also, an unjust and foolish man fell—it was a great deed of arms—at the hands of strong-armed Tighearnmhas." ⁵
21. "After all that, O fierce Niall, Eoghan shared Eire ⁶ with your folk. The ruddy hued ⁷ champion got an exact half from Conn the Hundred fighter."
22. (Niall). "Sorry, too, was Eoghan for pitting himself against Conn of the fetters when they met on Magh Léana. ⁸ Long shall his regret for it endure.
23. Sixty rightful princes of the sons of the lords of your country fell with Eoghan. This is not the statement of an ignorant man.
24. The fierce Fraoch ⁹ with two thousand who came with him, we deem it no fault that they were left beneath the feet of dogs and hounds.
25. Goll ¹⁰ chief of the heroes struck with his sword the head of the King of Mumha, so that the bones of his head were shattered and the ground gray with his brain.
26. "Do you not remember the battle of Gabhra, ¹¹ O Niall my dear pupil? There in the fight in the west the grandfather of your grandfather ¹² fell."
27. (Niall). "It was not the men of Mumha who slew him, O Torna, proud and over-hasty in speech, but the hirelings of Fionn of Eadair that false and wily man.
28. Eire now belongs to Cairbré's race—no nobler patrimony exists. There lives not a man here of the old Fian-warriors to rouse the chase.
29. It was not right of you to thus boastfully mention (the death of) Cairbre. It was easy for you to leave him out. But your strong prejudice was ever against me, my high master.
30. You have got from me seven times as much as from hard Corc, namely, half of the spoils of the countries I raided. Yet Corc is thanked by you for them.
31. I will not make peace with Corc till I reach rocky Caiseal, and till there reach me in the North the hostages of great-hosted Mumha."

32. Éirgíir Miall iona naépaig · tógúair ceann ór na cataib
 ir eirgíro a naoi gcaeta · ar ionéaib a n-aro-flaeta.
33. Gluairir cáe uainn pé céile · gluairir Miall fa móir méine ¹
 'r níor hanad linn go loépa · ói bur buan a comárta.
34. Tis Miall go n-a naoi gcaetaib · go loépa lán-mín laénaró
 ir fágúair fa éiaig éumad · epíoc éile ir Uir-mumhan.
35. Rob ionróa gápta gola · ir opnaóa fíir zóna
 asur éigean mná bporoe · fa lámáib na roéparoe.
36. Naoi bpiéro céao do céaduib · fa móir an t-aóbar éasnaig
 feolmác uí Cuinn na gcuirad · do buaib éile ir Uir-mumhan
37. A dubairt brian na mbreac raor · maoró mire ar Córe
 maoró mo gaoi
38. Tigeaó péin nó cuiréaó cat · ir in maroin-pe a mápac.
 Iarpin téigim-pe do leanmáin · Cuire mic luigéaó lán-
 meannmnaig
39. asur rluais méaróa Mumhan · ó leat Cuinn na gcaom-cuirad
40. Rugar i mbeapnán éile · ar Córe gá pí ba píerde
 asur ar cataib Cluóna · i ocmóeall a otiéapna.
41. Tugar fala tpe fíirg móir · do Córe Cairil líon a flóig
 gan anmhuin pe haicéapg lléill · ó do luair Téamair éaóib-
 péro.
42. Tura do cóirg ar gcaeta · gan gleo pe móir-pluag Maca
 do raoril rínn gur baó ríorúig · pe Miall go n-a éaom-
 píogúib.
43. Níor éar Miall duine fa gleo · ní mó éarpar gém bur beo
 i n-ór noáa nfuil a rpéir · níor ob cat ar dá cóibéir.
44. Do maoró cat Séipille géar · nar éuit éibear anba an
 péan
45. do maoró fór Connatol na gcepac · do maoró tréan-éogan
 taróleac.
46. Do maoró mire cat Gabra · 'r do b'aitépac leam a labra
 ar leatad ⁸ oam ní deacáir · maoréam Cairbpe Uipeacair.
47. Níor lámair ar na mápac · péacáin uaim ar Miall nápac
 maic do cummúig ceann Gaoréac · mac Cormaic do com-
 maoréam.
48. A dubairt puotra brian binn · mac Moingéinne an earla
 fínn
49. piar lléill nó a fpeaspa um cat · ir an maroin-pe a mápac.
50. Ro éirgí aró-pí áine · asur móir-pluag na Máige
 'r níor b'i an comairle éumang · do rónrapo mun upadall.

¹ A common construction instead of more usual . . . mian. ² K I. 154.

³ K II. 370.

⁴ Devil's Bit, Co. Tipp.

⁵ Glandore, Co. Cork, for Mumha.

⁶ K I. 118, 176.

⁷ K II. 266.

⁸ (?) Cf. "do éuair pé ar peacáin oim."

⁹ Cairbpe.

¹⁰ Knockany, Co. Lim.

¹¹ R. Maigue, Co. Lim.

32. Niall arose as a serpent, he raised his head over the battalions.
His nine battalions arise with their high chief.
33. All of us set out together, Niall in high spirit ¹ set out, and we
rested not till we came to Lothra,² which will long have the
trace thereof.
34. Niall with his nine battalions comes to smooth Lothra Lacnaidh
and leaves beneath the darkness of woe the land of Eile and
Ur-Mhumha.
35. Many were the wails of grief and the groans of the wounded and
the lament of the captive woman beneath the hands of the host.
36. Nine score hundreds—a mighty cause of resentment—of the
cattle of Eile and Ur-mhumha was the meat-spoil of Ua Cuinn
of the heroes.
37. Brian ³ of the free judgments spoke “Proclaim me and my
kinsfolk against Corc. Let him come himself or send a battalion
to-morrow morning.”
38. Then I go to seek Corc, son of spirited Lughaidh and the active
hosts of Mumha, leaving Conn’s Half of the fair heroes.
39. At Bearnan Eile ⁴ I overtook Corc—what king was readier?—
and the hosts of Cliodhna ⁵ around their lord.
40. In great anger I reproached Corc of Caiseal, with all his host,
for not waiting to speak with Niall after talking of smooth-
sided Teamhair as his.
41. “It was you who warned our hosts not to quarrel with the
great host of Macha.⁶ We therefore thought that you would
be peaceful towards Niall and his noble chiefs.
42. Niall never refused a fight, nor will he as long as he lives. He
cares not for gold, nor did he ever decline a fight with twice
his numbers.
43. He boasted of the fierce fight of Geisill where Eibhear—terrible
the calamity—fell. He boasted of the deaths of plundering
Connhaol and of brave splendid Eoghan.⁷
44. I boasted (against him) of the battle of Gabhra—I was sorry for
mentioning it. I failed not (?) ⁸ to mention the death of Cairbre
Lifeachair.
45. On the morrow I dared not look on noble Niall. Well did the
chief of the Gaidheal bear in mind my mention of Cormac’s
son.⁹
46. Sweet-voiced Brian, son of fair-haired Mongfhin, sent word
to thee to do Niall’s bidding or else to answer him about a
battle to-morrow morning.”
47. The high King of Aine ¹⁰ and the great host of the Maigh ¹¹ arose.
Not small-minded was the course they chose in regard to the
message.

48. 'S í comhairle do cinneadh • 'r ir í rogha do rinneadh
 Coirc do toigeadh go teadh léill • 'r a beir uile dá óig-péir.
49. Cúis céad do marc-rluagh meadh • táinig Coirc fa mór
 meanma
 re siallaidh séir dáil deascair • tuis ua Eoghain frófeadais.
50. Ochtar do siallaidh slana • fásdair as ua Cuinn Caba
 mar don ir Cairbre mac Cuirc • as Miall Orlis an fionn-fuile.
51. Cúis céad ead cúis céad luiread • tuis Miall do Coirc mac
 luigthead
 asur naoi bpiro fail óir • asur caoga corin com-óil.
52. Sibé éireadh meadhair léill • asur Cuirc Cairil dá péir
 muirín a marc-rluagh bfeair 'r a mban • ní cuirthead readh ran
 raogal.
53. Trias mo dála-ra fa deois • teardha mo cpaoda cineoil
 cumha léill ir Cuirc dom éirid • ní fadham as ná éadail.
54. Dál fear an domhain fa deois • go mullaic léibe Síoin
 do tadhairc éiric do Chríort éirid • béamar mire fa mór-dáil.

DÁIL.

¹ K II. 266.² *vid.* Onomast. Cobha.³ N. Derry.

48. The course they chose, the choice they made was that Corc should yield to Niall and be completely submissive to him.
49. With five hundred active riders Corc of high spirit came. The scion of Eoghan Fidhfeacach ¹ came with hostages—though it was a hard thing to do.
50. Eight fair hostages he left with the scion of Conn of Cabha ² and Cairbre too, his son, he left with fair-haired Niall of Oileach. ³
51. Five hundred steeds, five hundred cuirasses, Niall gave to Corc, son of Lughaidh, and nine score of golden rings and fifty drinking horns.
52. Whoever would have seen the joy of Niall and of Corc of Caiseal then, the joy of their squadrons of men, and of their women would have set no esteem ⁴ on the world.
53. Alas, for my fate after all! gone are my kindred races. Grief for Niall and Corc has tortured me. I can find no luck or fortune.
54. To the great gathering of all men on the summit of Mount Sion ⁵ to render justice to noble Christ, shall I too be brought.

⁴ Cf. "ἡ δὲ μετὰ τοὺς ἀποστόλους ἀνὰ τὸν οὐρανὸν ἦν ἡ δόξα τοῦ κυρίου καὶ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ὡς ἦν ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀρχαίου καὶ ἔστιν καὶ ἄρτι καὶ ἔσται ὡς ἦν ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀρχαίου." τ. Mc'Dáire RIA 23 F. 16, p. 128, v. 28. Probably=read, strength, pith (cf. Vis. M'Cong.) cf. use of bríð. ⁵ Sion dissyllable.

OLC DO TAGRAIS A TORMA. TADŪS MAC DÁIRE CCT.

1. OLC DO TAGRAIR A TORMA • GÉ BEIT D'FEABUR É'ALADNA
TAR CEANN LEITE MOGA A-MUIŠ • PE MALL CORŢPAÉ A CRUAÉAIN.
2. DO TŌSŪAIR 'R NÍOR ÉIALL ÉUMINEAC • IOMARŪAİŠ A HUÉT
MUMINEAC
AŠUR DO LÉISIR Í ORC • AR BÁRŌ PE CAÉA CONNAÉT.
3. NÍ DON MUMAIN DO MÁICNE • NÍOR ŪLİŠIR CAOINNA A ŠCAIRTE
ŌN LEIT A ŪTUARŌ TÁINIC RİB • DO FLIOÉT İR MŌIR MIC İLİURŌ.
4. DO BÁRŌ PE MŌR-FLUAŠ MAÉA • AŠUR FEAPŠ NA RO-FLAÉA
DO PAŌ ÉUPA A TORMA TIM • İR MALL AŠ ŪÉANAM ŪİÉILL.
5. BUAN A MÁIRŠ DO ČORC CLÁIRE • İR DO MŌR-FLUAŠ NA
MÁİGE
NAC FİLE D'FUIL ÉİBİR FİNN • TAPLA RO ÉURO-PE DON ČOINNATINN.
6. A ŪUBRAIR NÍOR MÁİT PÉ PÁŌ • AŠ TAGRA ŪUIT PE MALL
NÁR
FUAIR ÉİBEAR FİONN NA BŢLEAD-ŌL • LEAT ÉİPEANN Ó ÉİPEAMŌN.
7. ÉİBEAR İR É PA RİNE • ŪON ČLOINN OIRŪEİRC OIRŪONŪE
CEANN NA LOINGRE AR NŪOL DO ŪONN • NÍ Ó İŲİREAR FUAIR
FEAPANN.
8. LEİR DO ÉUIT MAC CUILL ČALMA • AŠ CORNAM ČŪİÉA ĐANĐA
Rİ ÉİPEANN ĐOB AINN DON FEAR • AŠ TEACŲ DO MÁICNE MİLEAD.
9. İR UARĐE AİMMNİŠTEAR ÉİRE • İ LARŌIN ŠO TÁIN-ČŢÉİME
NÍ HAINM NAC OIRŪEARC DON FİOR • MİBERNİA A HAINM Ó ÉİBEAR.
10. NÍOR MĀORŲİR ÉACŲ NA AŠARŌ • AR MALL AN UAIR DO LABAIR
TUİTIM ÉİBİR NA ÉACŲ MŌR • İ NŠÉİRİLL PE NÉİPEAMŌN.
11. CRÉAD NAR ČUIRİR İ ŠCUİMNE • TUİTIM LAİŠNE İR LUİŠNE
ČLANN ÉİPEAMŌİN MĀRĐA MİR • PE MACAİĐ UAIRLE ÉİBİR.
- 11a. MAC MIC D'ÉİPEAMŌN FEARĐA • EİCPAİ PA HARŲ-FLAİT
TEAMPA
NÍOR MĀORŲİR A TUİTIM RİN • LE TÁIN ČONMĀOİL MIC ÉİBİR.
12. DÁ MBEİTEÁ İ ŠCOMČROM DO ČORC • NÍ BEİTEA A TORMA RO
ČŌÉT
'N UAIR DO ŠOİR MALL NÍ NAR ŪLİŠ • ANFLAİT TEAMPA D'FUIL
ÉİBİR.
13. NÍOR B' ANFLAÉA İ ŲTEAMPAİŠ ČINN • MİŲŠPAŲ FLAÉČA ÉİBİR
FİNN
ACŲ FİOR-FLAÉA ŠO BŢİADAIN • DO ŪŪÉČAR 'R DO ŪEİŠ-PAŠAİL.
14. ČŪİŠEAR MAC LE NÉİBEAR FÉİN • MŲ ŠAD NEARČ AR TEAMPAİŠ
ČŢÉİM
ACARŲ TAR ÉİR A N-ACAR • NÍOR LÉİŠRİŲŲ İ A MŲŲRACADŲ.

¹ CA. 274. ² K II. 108. ³ II. 41. ⁴ II. 47. ⁵ II. 17. ⁶ K II. 86,
xxix. ⁷ K II. 95. ⁸ K I. 98, 102. ⁹ II. 19. ¹⁰ K II. 116. ¹¹ K II.
118. ¹² II. 10. ¹³ K II. 116-120.

1. Poor—spite of your good learning, O Torna !—was your argument in behalf of Leath Mogha yonder against victorious Niall from Crúachain.¹
2. You undertook—it was not a happy idea—to contend for the men of Mumha, and you merely pretended to do so in your love of the hosts of the Connachta. (K).
3. Not of Mumha is your race, you had no right to defend her charter. From the North have you come from the stock of great Ir, son of Mile.²
4. Your love of the great host of Macha and the anger of its high prince made you, Torna, timid when Niall was vigorous.
5. Long shall be the sorrow on Corc of Claire³ and on the hosts of the Maigh⁴ that it was not a poet of the race of fair Eibhear that had your part in the contention.
6. You said⁵—it was not right to say it—when arguing with noble Niall “Eibhear Fionn of the drinking feasts got half of Eire from Eireamhon.”
7. It is Eibhear who was the eldest of the illustrious consecrated race. He, the head of the fleet when Donn had died,⁶ did not get the land from a younger brother.
8. By Eibhear fell brave Mac Cuill defending the land of Banba, who was called King of Eire when Mile’s race arrived.⁷
9. From him is Eire⁸ named in Latin very properly. It is an illustrious name for the hero, “Hibernia,” her name from Eibhear.
10. You did not mention any evil deed in answer to Niall when he spoke⁹ of the death of Eibhear—a great crime—at Geisill by the hands of Eireamhon.
11. Why did you not remind him of the deaths of Laighne and Luighne,¹⁰ the children of active vigorous Eireamhon, at the hands of Eibhear’s noble sons.
- 11a. A grandson of brave Eireamhon, Eitrial was high prince of Teamhair. You did not mention his death at the hand of Conmhaol, son of Eibhear.¹¹
12. Had you been fair to Corc,¹² O Torna ! you would not have been silent when Niall wrongfully styled Eibhear’s race the usurpers of Teamhair.
13. Not usurpers in strong Teamhair were the princes of the stock of Eibhear Fionn, but true princes—there is witness thereto—by good right and law.
14. Five of Eibhear’s sons¹³ held sway in strong Teamhair some time after their father. They did not let it pass from their prescriptive right to it (?).

15. Seaáct gceatpar ó duine díob . do fáir ne gCorc comráo
fíor
ór cionn Teamhac na gcuir . nar féao niall do b'éaghuagá.
16. Rí don fúirinn mearrda móir . do cuir ar túr plabha óir
ra b'ráigóib níg-fear réin reang . mar onóir o'uarlib
éireann.
17. Rí eile don féin airmis . tug tuarparal o'ar gairgíó
do cormac éiríe na b'fionn . ar túr i n-luir éirionn.
18. Rí oile díob na diais rin . do céao-cuir le meanmain mair
fáilge óir um glacaib fear . do ríógaib glana gaoideal.
18a. Neac díob 'r ní haoinneac rómra . do rinne o'fionn a
mbionnta
rgéit airmis i' cian ro-élor . 'r do b'ionn iad a nairgeatoróir.
19. Seanair fúiríeac comghe . i' níg o'uarlib na foirne
áirimtear dá ríolaib rin . i n'éirinn o'air áim-irgin.
20. Neac don ríogpar óir airmis . do céao-cuir roca i gairpíob
o'iomcar deag-fairtear b'ear fáil . i gcríe éireann mar
anáir.
20a. i b'fairtear duine don oruig . ní r'gíobtear a teac tar
tuinn
neart eacparann ar luir mbreag . 'r tugrao deabta dá
oidean.
20b. Ní r'gíobtear orra fiongal . an ríogpar éacac fionn-glán
claoim-breata ná ciorrúad cuil . féacaro cáe cia ar a
r'gíobtear.
21. Dá réir rin a cormac réim . níor éiríe duic ne glór léill
anflata do ráo ráo mear . ne fíor-oisrib mac Míleao.
22. A duibair níor éair an glór . as teac duic tar eoan móir
fuar an breagan donn daac . ceirt-leac ó Conn céaoacac.
23. Trí éiríe curo do éirgead . níorb é ceirt-leac cúig gcuigead
'r é ar bean eoan do Conn . mar ar follur a cormac.
24. Ó ác Clia Meadraige iar . go Duibinn lúe as ác Clia
atá éirgí Ríada ar fáo . do rinne Conn ne Moš nuadao.
25. Níor mairíe tuicim eoan . ne Conn an airmis eolais
teac i n-airm gairgíó dá guin . 'r é na lúe ar a leabar.
26. Níor mairíe tú ní éireann réin . ar mac Cuinn an airm
ait-éir
do tuicim fé mac i gceat . gér mair é-eolur níor fearmáe.

¹ Connhaol. ² Muineamhon, K II. 130. ³ Seadna, K II. 140. ⁴ Ailldeargoid, K II. 130. ⁵ Eanna, K II. 128. ⁶ Cf. XVI. 47. ⁷ Rotheachtaidh Rotha C.A. 13. ⁸ II. 10. ⁹ II. 21. ¹⁰ i.e., the two Mumhas, Leinster, and part of Connaught. Cf. K. I. 106. Tadhg's comparison is based on provinces as units, not on extent of territory. ¹¹ Clarinbridge, Co. Galway. K I. 106. ¹² II. 22. ¹³ Eriu, III. 149, VI., 144, 150. ¹⁴ Luagá lağa at mucromne, K. II. 280.

15. Twenty-eight descendants of one ¹ of them flourished before Corc—an accurate statement—over Teamhair of the heroes. Niall could not have gainsaid it.
16. A king ² of the great active band was the first to put golden chains around the necks of gentle graceful princes, as an honour to the nobles of Eire.
17. Another king ³ was the first in Eire to give pay to the warriors of the wandering Fian for the defence of the land of the Fair Ones.
18. Another king ⁴ of them afterwards was the first with quick inventiveness to put golden rings on the hands of men of the fair races of the Gaoidheal.
- 18a. One of them, ⁵ and no one before them, made silver shields—it is an old story—so as to make presents of them, and bestowed them at Airgeadros.
19. It is kings of the nobles of that race that are told of as spreading history poetry synchronism, ⁶ in Eire after Aimhirgin.
20. One ⁷ of that bright inventive line of kings first put wheels to chariots for carrying in honour in Eire the goodly chiefs of the men of Fal.
- 20a. In the reign of any of that number there is no account of a force of foreigners coming over sea to Inis Breagh, and they fought battles to defend her.
- 20b. About the doughty fair noble kings there is no record of murder, or crooked judgments or violation of relationship. All see of whom these things are told.
21. Therefore, O gentle Torna, you should not have listened to Niall applying the word “usurpers” ⁸—rashly to the true heirs of the race of Mile.
22. When you spoke of great Eoghan ⁹ you said—incorrectly—“the brown ruddy champion got an exact half from Conn the hundred-fighter.”
23. Three fifths and a part of a fifth ¹⁰ was not an exact half of five fifths. That is what Eoghan took from Conn, as its boundary is clear.
24. From Ath Cliath Meadhraighe ¹¹ in the West to Dubh Linn at Ath Cliath runs Eiscir Riada all the way. Conn divided (thus) with Mogh Nuadhat.
25. It was not right to boast of the killing of Eoghan by Conn ¹² of the wily mind, his coming fully armed to kill him when he was lying on his bed.
26. You mentioned not the King of Eire himself, Art, ¹³ sharp-bladed Conn’s son, whom Eoghan’s son slew in battle. ¹⁴ For all your knowledge you were not sturdy (against Niall).

27. Νίον μαοιὸ τῦ ι οτράτ α μαοιὸν • Cyp Cormaic mic Airt
 Δοιμ-ῆιρ
 τ'ῆιαδα πο ῡαῖαι coipe • ιαρ μαὸν Ὀρῶμα Ὀαῖῡαιρε.
 28. Ὁο φυλῖγῖρ α ράὸ το Νιαι • ναρ ὕριρ κατ ῡαῖα δέτ αν ῆαν
 ῡέρ μαίτ αν ῆαν ιρ ιν ῡατ • το β'έ Μοῡ Corm α ῡοῖνα.
 29. Μόρῶε μο ἔριμ α Ἐρινα • ορε ναέ τ'εαῖαὸ εαλαῖνα
 το εαῖαὸ ὀιῖτ α πῶεαῖαὸ ἔατ • δέτ ναέ ῡεαῖαῖρ ὀῖινη
 ὀῖῖα.
 30. Νί αρ μαίτε ρε Corm ῆιν • δέτ τ'αῖαὸ αῖμα Νέιι
 το λαῖαῖρ αρ λαῖαῖρ ριῖ • αῡ ἔαῡα το Ἐρι Ἐαῖι.
 31. ῆε αῡ ῡαέ ὀριῖγ ὀα ὀτῖα ῆιν • αῡ comῆαο ρεαῖαῖρ ὀα
 ὕριμ
 μαρ εῖαῖμ ανοιρ αρ Corm • το ρέιρ ι'αῖνε 'ρ μό αρ νεαῖι.
 οῖ.

27. You mentioned not, when you should have done so, the putting of Cormac, son ¹ of Art Aoinfhear by Fiachaidh under the hook of the cauldron after the battle of Druim Damhghaire.²
28. You allowed Niall to say ³ that it was the Fian that won the battle. Though the Fian were brave in the fight, Mogh Corb was their commander.
29. I blame you Torna all the more as it was not through want of knowledge that you omitted what you omitted, but that you did not do your best for us.
30. Not to defend Corc but to extol the fame of Niall you spoke as you did when pleading for Corc of Caiseal.
31. That each tribe should have a part of its own stock to defend the lore of its race—as I see now in the case of Corc—is what is best in my opinion.

¹ Duanaire Fhinn, II. 4, 48.

² K. II. 318.

³ II. 27.

Α ΤΑΙΥΣ ΝΑ ΤΑΤΑΟΙΡ ΤΟΡΝΑ. ΛΥΣΑΙΘ Ο ΚΛΕΙΡΙΣ cct.

1. Α ΤΑΙΥΣ ΝΑ ΤΑΤΑΟΙΡ ΤΟΡΝΑ · 'ρ ζαν é ι n-ait bui n-azallma
 pe a mac pamla ir mairis do mear · zo noionghaó claoon ap
 cáirdear.
2. Τυς τ'αίρε ναc bpeit le báir · do cásra féin ap miall náir
 ro file do ríol Saóba · an Mumá ir í t'atavda.
3. Ní mair úiob ir dá mair · éin-fear úioǵalta falaó
 éasnaó fleacáta Cuinn na sceaó · do buó lám i neao
 naiteas.
4. Ní cuillioó uiomda ón taoib cear · ríol sCuinn ó naó tis
 nar utear
 fa cumine a scomram nó a scaó · as cornam teallais
 Teamrac.
5. Clann Sólaim na ngleo neam-tair · ní cumgam ceit a
 peandair
 a scaó a sgocta ro élor · léisreao úiom mar do seallar.
6. Éibear Donn an taira fear · ir Éireamón Inre Úreas
 dá ceann na loingsre as teacó uóib · do úioǵail lte ón
 Eappáin.
7. Clann éan-mácar Éibear Fionn · ir Éireamón ór éin rínn
 'r é ór ceann Éibir sro eao · ir Éireamón 'na rúirear.
8. Iar mbátaó Duinn na uóionól · sérb'é an rúrar Éireamón
 bpeit Amhrisín an glúin síl · a beit a n-ait an trinnrír.
9. Dá biéin rin péaca féin · ap slór Torua an beanta béim
 a ráó zo bfuair Éibear Fionn · ó Éireamón leat Éireann.
10. Clann Cearnada 'na utrí píς · pe huó mac Míleao ir tír
 ro cuinneao cia le utugaó · i scaó Tailtean toréarao.
11. Do mair Éireamón fear úib · mac Céacó do b' foraimm
 uon píς
 ó do maoró tura an tpear fear · do cuirim uib pe nÉibear.
12. Iar rin uon Éibear céib-fionn · bliadóin na leit-píς Éiríonn
 már lór leatra mar leat úó · ó Úóinn toir zo tuinn Clíoóna.
13. Ir ainm tar naró oirdear teacó · ro léigíonn dá leantaoi
 ceart
 hibernia ó Éibear Fionn · 'r naó raibe na píς Éiríonn.
14. Léigiró úúinne do úemínis · hibernur ainm an semírú
 'r supab u'fuaó Inre Vanba · rpió aóbar an for-anna.
15. Atáro linn 'nar leabrais féin · ní uolta úúinn tar a
 scéill
 dá aóbar oile do bean · ainm hibernia¹⁰ u'Éibear.

¹ III, 1, 2, etc. ²D. of Conn Ceadchathach and wife of Oilill Olum. ³Mile.

⁴K. II. 86, etc.

⁵Ir. Nennius. Todd. 56.

⁶K. II. 94.

⁷III. 8.

⁸K. I. 108, Glandore, Co. Cork.

⁹III. 9.

¹⁰Four syllables.

[Answer to III.]

1. O Tadhg, censure not Torna ¹ as he cannot answer you. Sad that one should think of a man like him that for friendship he would pervert truth.
2. Take care lest your plea for noble Niall may be biassed. You are of Sadhbh's ² race. Mumha is your fatherland.
3. There lives not one of them to avenge the insult ; if there did, to insult the race of plundering Conn would be to put one's hand in a serpent's nest.
4. I shall not deserve the displeasure of the south,—since in our contention there is no occasion of speaking of Conn's race,—by talking of their victories and battles in defence of the household of Teamhair.
5. I cannot however be silent as to the history of the race of Golamh ³ of the fierce fights. Their battles and wars are known, and I shall pass over them as I promised.
6. Eibhear Donn was one and Eireamhon of Inis Breagh the other of the two leaders of the fleet when they come from Spain to avenge Ith.⁴
7. Sons of one mother were Eibhear Fionn and Eireamhon from whom we sprang. Yet Eireamhon was over Eibhear though Eireamhon was the younger.
8. After the drowning of Donn of the gatherings it was the judgment of white-kneed Aimhirgin ⁵ that though Eireamhon was the younger he should be in the place of the elder.
9. Therefore you can see whether Torna should be reviled for saying that Eibhear Fionn got the half of Eire from Eireamhon.
10. The sons of Cearmada the three kings opposed Mile's sons in the land. They were slain at the battle of Tailte ⁶—you remember who fought it.
11. Eireamhon killed one of them—Mac Ceacht was the king's name,—as you have mentioned ⁷ one of the three being killed by Eibhear.
12. Then fairhaired Eibhear for a year was half-king of Eire, that is if you think it a full half, the country from the Boyne in the East to Cliodhna's wave.⁸
13. It is a name which you have no right to mention,⁹ if you mean to follow truth in your learning, namely "Hibernia" as derived from Eibhear Fionn seeing he was not king of Eire.
14. A scholar has assured us that Hibernus means winter and that it is from the cold of Inis Banba that the name was derived.
15. We have in our own books—and we should not gainsay them—two other reasons which prevent Hibernia ¹⁰ from being derived from Eibhear.

16. Adubar dā gairm d'lnir fáil · rruet libeip atā pan Spáin
mar earla re tceact an-oip · mar dūtear as Cloinn
Solan.
17. Nō oiléan i dtoirneann srian · d'ibernia ip ead ar éiall
focal gréasac tiz ip teas · i nsgabaltar mac Milead.
18. Ar áirniur oruib d'éactaib · do fíol Éireamóin éactaiz
'na n-āgar d'otopéair linn · adubar diomda dā n-áirniinn.
19. Do māoróir maic ré d'éininn · roéair banba ó fuil Éibip
ní hé d'fainail māorófeair mé · do fíol Éireamóin uirre.
20. Mō ar māoróte air iac mbanba · roéair dā dtárraio
tarba
d'haibne d'loca ma le · d'mur-bpuet mara d'maige.
21. Áiream dā fícto d'lión · po muid d'Éireamóin 'r dā fíol
d'áibuib fíola ip fíce loc · so dtáinic an Conn caāc.
22. Ip aca i nÉirinn ar tór · do beapad ór fa nuad nór⁵
ip ní do maicne an muiuir · tug iol-dāca ar éadaiuib.
23. Tpoča māz tugrao d'coill · cumaoim oile ar luir fíloinn
gēmao é an mur-bpuet mara · tárraio an tOl-muēad.
24. Ar fíol nÉibip ní fāgaim · gur muid loc gur ling abainn
ar d'real d'lnir banba · dar leat níor b'i d'ācarā.
25. Act react muiže d-māin do bean · eoéar mac Connāoil na
gcnead
na foirne ar d'bfuil do ceann⁹ · níor beanrao d'fíotuib
Éireann.
26. Dāmao do fíol Éibip dōib · tmuir ar d'oligfíde dōiz
meairm so māorófíde lat · Conn Conaire asur Cormac.
27. Soéair Conaire calma · ip oirdeair iao fan mbanba
ciō dūinn dēanai d'beara · atāro as dor ainbfeara.
28. Cormac bpeiteam na mbreac bfiōir · é po tpaet teasarg na
píoz
ní fāgcar ugdar ar fēairi · as oligtib dorca Éireann.
29. Do Conn ní muid d'māordeam · d'cumaoim ar gort nsgaordeal
cōiz pfiōm-pōro so tiz Teamra · pfiē i n-orōce d'gēneamna.
30. San orōce cēatna po élor · léim dōinne i bpaštaoi an
t-iomur¹²
ip léim Comair na dtí rruet · ip dā loc um loc nēacac.

¹ K. I. 102. ² K. I. 102. ³ K. II. 106, etc., 126, etc. ⁴ K. II. 122.

⁵ Cf. mōlao dūitpe bur nua nóir · d'gnúir do teiz muiēnead póir. A common phrase so nua(rōe) (a)no(i)r (cf. so nua anioz, T. McDaire, RIA 23 C. 18, p. 66, v. 19) is often confused with this in MSS. cf. Voc. anoir.

⁶ K. II. 116, 118, 128. ⁷ K. II. 128. ⁸ K. II. 124. ⁹ Cf. "d'gēmao ní cóir teann," Anl. McDoúasáin, RIA 23 D 16, p. 185, v. 7. ¹⁰ K. II. 304.

¹¹ cf. 4 M.; Airne Fingein. Anecdota II.; Magh Léana, O'Curry, p. 96, etc. ¹² i.e., enā iomuir, nuts of knowledge. -Cf. Dinds.; Metr. Dind.; Laws. Gloss. ¹³ Waterford Harbour.

16. One reason for Inis Fail being so called is the river Hiber ¹ in Spain, as, before they came from the east, it was the home of Golamh's children.
17. Or else the meaning of Hibernia is the island where the sun goes down,² a Greek word which suits the land taken by Mile's sons (?).
18. As for the deeds of violence you have told of the race of fierce Eireamhon, it would only cause anger were I to mention all those who fell at our hands.
19. You boasted rightly of the benefits conferred on Banba by Eibhear's race. Very different are those conferred by Eireamhon's race which I shall boast of.
20. One has more reason to boast of those benefits conferred on Banba's land from which she got profit, her rivers, her lakes too, her sea-floods her plains.
21. Twenty-two of the rivers of Fodla ³ and twenty lakes burst forth for Eireamhon and his seed before the coming of battling Conn.
22. By them first in Eire ⁴ was gold smelted—it was a new thing ⁵—and a king ⁵ of the descendants of that stock invented colours for clothes.
23. Thirty plains ⁶ they cleared of wood—another benefit for Inis Floinn. Even the irruption Olmhuchadha got it.⁷
24. I do not find that for Eibhear's seed there burst forth lakes or that rivers leaped forth during their period over Inis Banba. One would imagine it was not their fatherland!
25. Except for seven plains ⁸ which Eochaidh son of Conmhaol of the scars cleared, the race of which you are so proud ⁹ cleared no plains of the woods of Eire.
26. If Conn Conaire Cormac, the three of whom one might confidently boast, had been of Eibhear's seed I think they would have been mentioned by you!
27. Splendid are the benefits of brave Conaire over Banba. Why need I tell of them? Even ignorant folk know them.
28. Cormac judge of the true judgments expounded the Instruction of Kings.¹⁰ No greater authority is found in the ancient laws of Eire.
29. Well may one boast of Conn's benefits to the land of the Gaoidheal. Five chief roads ¹¹ to the house of Teamhair were discovered the night of his birth.
30. That same night there was heard the springing forth of the Boinn ¹¹ in which the iomus ¹² was got, of the Cumair-na-dtri-sruth ¹³ and of two other lakes besides ¹¹ Loch nEachach.

31. Cpasb Daiti ip cpasb Mlughna · eo-éruinn go gcnuasac éumpra
bile Torrtan eo Ropa · ppit ran oirde céadna-ra.
32. Fáar a bilead buain a piod · tomairm a loé léim a ppiob
ar épic foúla gá fearr cairt · do píol éipeamóin onúairc.
33. Bean éipeamóin iúl cumneac · Téa² píal ingean luigheac
do tógaid Teamair dá plicet · go bfuil aca na hoigheac.
34. Tiomna luighe dá píol · cairt oile ar éruinn na píog
tar fuil éibir an mior-óil · atá as aicme éipeamóin.
35. Seallair do uile i néipe · fa pátaib éarfa ip zréme
realb na Danba tre bit píor · dá plicet san fuat san éirpíot.
36. Rannair a élaun napimur⁵ móro · ire i gcúis rannair fa éois
tri céad bliadan do bui an rann · san cáe do teac tar
tórann.
37. Iar mbuiread dá caogad cat · Tuatal Teacmair triat go pat
fuair pé na páta pome · ó cáe mar fuair luighe.
38. Puirc oipeacair Inre Féil · leo céana ac Cairéal amóin
o'fuil éipeamóin do deapb rin · realb éipeann tar fuil
néibir.
39. Oileac na píog páe Cpuaéna · Teamair Ureag Teamair Luacra
Nár Luighean Eamain Ulaó · o'air⁸ real na sean-éurad.
40. Ao-éi gac cúir fáir cúir Miall · an-flait i leit Cuirc na gcliar
mac Eacac nac obad gleo · péac an oirdear a aicéa.
41. Ip é rin tug ar Torna · 'r ní báro pe píol gCunn gCnoúda
mar do éirp pe Miall go neart · 'r ní dá péirg tug an
t-éirveac.
42. Com-gar dúinne ip díbre tear · Ír ó bfuil an tí san éar¹⁰
ní ria Torna ón taoib a-muig · Luacair Deagad a dútaig.
43. Buideac ip beitte do Cope · do Torna fa beit na toet
nar éumniú ar éumniú rib · do píogair fleacra éibir.
44. O'eagla go n-áiréamad Miall · píogair Teamra toir ip tlar
óir do gab Torna pé o'taoib · do feac gceatparr nar
commaoir.
45. Mior éin ó Cope mac Luigheac · éin-rí do píogair Muinneac
deacair duit tagra go teann · do gab oipeacair éipeann.

¹ Cf. O'Curry's Magh Léana, p. 96; O'Flaherty's Ogygia, II. 207; Rev. Celt., xv., 419, 445; xvi., 278; C.Z., v. 21, Eriu. iv. 150. ² Dissyllable.

³ K. II. 104. ⁴ K. II. 156. ⁵ mior (<marom) generally intrans., cf. iv. 21, 24. u-form perhaps owing to muúigim. ⁶ K. II. 156.

⁷ K. II. 244. ⁸ Cf. "fa píol nEamna do b'píú a do'air · do éiú pé lá (realb?) a o'air air." "Fór as corpan catá éirne · uata zen go bfuair a luag: nior éairc as teac ar gac to'air · fearc ip leac ip o'air uat." p. ós me an bairp, RIA 23 C 23, p. 222, v. 8, 11.

⁹ Knowth, Co. Meath. ¹⁰ éar "obscurity," frequent in phrase san c., cf. óir nar é. é ar na hoirib, "questions, problems"; "i gceatpócin na gc. noipacat," p. ón éainte, RIA 23 L 17, p. 149, v. 10; E 15, p. 181, v. 15.

31. The tree of Dathi and the tree of Mughna, yew-trees (K) with fragrant produce, the tree of Torta, the yew of Ros were found that same night.¹
32. The growth of her trees, the cutting of her woods, the bursting forth of her lakes, the springing forth of her streams,—what better charter could Eireamhon's seed have to Fodhla?
33. Eireamhon's wife—it is well-known—Tea² noble daughter of Lughaidh, built Teamhair for her race so that it is their inheritance.³
34. Iughoine's testament to his seed is another proof of the possession of kingly Eire held by Eireamhon's race, and not by the race of Eibhear of the mead-feasts.⁴
35. They all in Eire promise him by the sureties of the moon and sun, possession of Banba for ever, and to have no hatred or hostility to his stock.
36. His sons who broke⁵ not covenant divide her in twenty-five parts.⁶ That division lasted for three hundred years and none transgressed it.
37. The prosperous lord Tuathal Teachtmair after winning fifty battles exacted the above sureties from all as Iughoine had done.⁷
38. The palaces of pre-eminence of Inis Fail, which, except only Caiseal, belong to them show too that Eireamhon's stock and not Eibhear's owned Eire.
39. Oileach of the kings, the fort of Cruachain, Teamhair of the Breagha, Teamhair of Luachair, Nas of the Laighin, Eamhain of the Ulaidh were once the graves⁸ of the old heroes.
40. You see why Niall called Corc the poets' friend a usurper. Consider if it be right to gainsay Eochaidh's son who never refused fight.
41. That is why Torna listened to powerful Niall; it was not through bias for the race of Conn of Cnodhbha,⁹ and it was not owing to Niall's anger that Torna gave ear to him.
42. Equally near to us and to you is Ir from whom descended the famous¹⁰ poet. Torna is just as near to yonder side (Mumha). Luachair Deaghaidh was his country.
43. Corc should be grateful to Torna for his silence, for his not recalling what you recall of the kings of Eibhear's race!
44. It was through his fear lest Niall might recall all the kings of Teamhair east and west that Torna took the right course in reference to your twenty-eight kings, and did not boast of them.
45. No king of the kings of Mumha descended from Corc son of Lughaidh ever held the sovereignty of Eire. It would be hard for you to argue that with confidence.

46. Buirdean treipirir ip céad níos . d'fhuil Éireamhóin ip é a lion
i ndeasais Néill ip poime . atá san réim níosraide.
47. Tiomna luaine ar Éirinn . ip Tuatail Teachtair d'férdlim
tus Maill an gcéadna dá éloinn . ma n-éas ar éatair
Érðboins.
48. Réimear ceatracad 'r ré níos . do bí an tiomna-ra gá íol
realb na héireann ná marrao . ar maicne Néill Maor-
giallais.
49. Ní maic liom a dol ór aip . oip mar do easrair a tarós
go raibe níor mó ná leat . d'Éirinn as Eogan Tarbleac.
50. Méad bar n-arðbre ip aicne daim . ar leit Moza na múr nglan
na rmaoirir an mhrde ar Conn . 'r na cóisrō gan beic comērom.
51. Sibé do féacrao orra . ar túr i tprát a ponna
coibéir dá cóisead oile . cóisead éloinne Ruðruige.
52. Do béara duit a demhin . péac rean-poinn fleacta leimhō
tprí cuir go scomērom ponna . do maō d'Éirinn eatorra.
53. Don poinn rin ip ead ar tman . ó bōinn go Toirunir tiar
ruail pé mear don iat-foō rean . an bfuil ann acēt don
cóisead.
54. Roinn oile tarla ar an tír . iorir fhuict Éibir mic ír
bar tprí cúisrō cupēar ann . péir nōá cóisrō i scomērom.
55. Céad bliadān ar bail do bí . Eirgír na ponna-ra ar i
ó lnbear Colbta na gceac . gur an gcuan lām le luimneac.
56. Fraoc mac Éibir 'r a eactpoinn . ip dōib tusaō an éar-
poinn
fuair Eogan ó mac ūna . ra dēois níor fáē iomēnūta.
57. Ná beir uaim ní dá maorēam . ar ceil mé nō go maorēar
'r níor gābar acēt leit-rséal las . ne marbaō Moza llaadāo.
58. Ir amlaio fuapar rseala . Eogain mōir ar Muig Léana
nac raib i gcaoir mar Conn . do dōis a harmaib eactpoinn.
59. Seibir ar maoin go moē . a coolaō níor coolaō tpoē¹¹
mar nac raibe com-lion céad . do bí Conn ar a comēad.

¹ K. II. 244. ² Teamhair, *i.e.*, Eire. ³ III. 23. Tadhg had argued that Eibhear's Half contained of the five Provinces (made by the Fírbolg, K. I. 107) more than three, *i.e.*, two Mumhas, Laighin (most of it) and part of Connachta. Lughaidh here points out that North Laighin (afterwards Midhe) was Conn's and that not the number of provinces, but extent of territory should be the basis of the comparison. To prove this is object of St. 51-55. ⁴ K. I. 106, *i.e.* It is equal to your two Mumhas. Therefore look to the extent rather than to number of provinces. ⁵ Ibid. ⁶ *i.e.*, the extent of each part was equal, even though any one part included more than one province according to your system of counting. ⁷ *i.e.*, Cearmna and Sobhairce. Their dividing line was from Drogheda to Limerick. ⁸ *i.e.*, the Southern Half which you would count as three provinces is equal to the North Half in which you would count only two. ⁹ Fraoch Mileasach, son of Eibhear, King of Spain. cf. Magh Léana, xx., 45, etc. ¹⁰ III. 25. ¹¹ Cf. tpoic, O'R.; Wind. Wört; Vis. McConglinne.

46. One hundred and six kings of Eireamhon's race before and after Niall are in the Roll of Kings.
47. The disposition which Iughoine made of Eire, and which Tuathal Teachtmhar ¹ gave to Feidhlim, that same testament for the City of Crobhaing ² Niall before his death gave to his sons.
48. For the period of forty-six kings that inheritance rested with his race. Claim not therefore the possession of Eire from the race of Niall Naoi-ghiallach.
49. I am sorry that it should be known abroad that you, Tadhg, argued ³ that more than half of Eire belonged to splendid Eoghan.
50. I see how excessive is your pride in Leath-Mhogha of the white forts, as you did not allow that Midhe belonged to Conn, and that the provinces were not equal.
51. Whoever would have seen them at their first sharing would have seen that the province of the race of Rudhraighe was equal to two other provinces. ⁴
52. Look at the old division of the race of Neimheadh. ⁵ It will prove the point ⁶ to you. They divide Eire between them in three parts with equality of division.
53. A third of that division is the land from the Boinn to Toirinis in the west. It is a point of small consequence whether that ancient sodded-land is called one province.
54. Another division that was made of the land was that between the race of Eibhear, son of Ir. ⁷ Your three provinces may be put down as equivalent to our two provinces. ⁸
55. For one hundred years the Eiscir of that division remained good. It is from Inbhear Colbhtha of the Spoils to the harbour near Luimneach.
56. It was really owing to Fraoch, ⁹ son of Eibhear and to his foreigners that the proper division which Eoghan got from Una's son was granted. At last there was no reason left for jealousy.
57. Do not take me as boasting of anything until I mention it. You gave ¹⁰ but a lame story about the murder of Mogh Nuadhad.
58. It is thus I have heard the tale about Eoghan at Magh Leana. He put his trust in an army of foreign troops, and was not on the alert like Conn.
59. Conn went forth in the early morning—his sleep was not the sleep of sluggards. ¹¹ Because Conn had not equal numbers of troops he was on his guard.

60. A mhic Dáire ir t-aoir an bpeac¹ • mār feall do námuir ar neac
 toul ran ló d'ionnruige air • gá beac na luige ar a leabair.
 61. Suin airc do lughair lága • níor mairíte duit go dána
 ní hé lughair do marb air • acé liochairne go laocdaéc.
 62. A gníom opair ná hainmnig • liochairne laoc do laignib
 bpatair airc mhic Cuinn na gcaé • mac donsupa mhic Eacáe.
 63. Ná háirinn é ar an Mumain • 'r gan acé tair ran dá lughair
 eacéronnaig ir iad do bair • caé Mucromie ro mairir.
 64. Moš Ruic do rliocé Ir oirdeire • fa-deara dí-niad Cormaic
 Caoille an Oirad ar dearbair air • ní hionmairíte é ar
 fíadair.
 65. Dár Cairbre an ríog nádaig⁶ • Semeón mac Ceirb a bpatair
 i gcaé Gabra ir leir do tuit • corcáir an fían na éaruc.⁷
 66. Teacé le féin fínn nar n-agaíó • do díogail do mac Garair
 oar ort Moš Corb ní rgeal nua • i n-iomairis rleibe Sean-Cua.

A CAIÖS.

¹ III. 26. ² Coéair and Conn were two sons of Feidhlimidh Reachtmhar.

³ Lughaidh Lagha and Lughaidh Mac Con, K. II. 280. ⁴ K. II. 320. ⁵ Two cantreds in Fermoy. Eriu, iv. 222, 229. ⁶ ? Syll. short v. Var. Lect., K. II. 354. ⁷ i n-é. comes to mean "in return for" cf. ón bpile gan raobair go blaó. uile i n-éiric an gníoma," Air Ó Caoim, RIA 23 G 21, p. 171, v. 2.

⁸ Of the race of moyna. ⁹ Shanahoe, Co. Limerick.

60. Son of Daire, it is a partial judgment on your part if you imagine that it is treachery against a man for a foe to go in daylight to attack him even though the man be lying on his bed.
61. You should not have attributed so boldly the death of Art to Lughaidh Lagha.¹ It was not Lughaidh who killed Art but Lioghairne in brave combat.
62. Do not claim Lioghairne's deed for your side. He was a hero of the Laighin, a kinsman of Art son of battling Conn, and a son of Aongus son of Eochaidh.²
63. Do not count it as a victory of Mumha, seeing that the two Lughaidhs³ were only two men. It is foreigners who won the fight of Mucroimhe which you boasted of.
64. It was Mogh Ruith of the stock of famous Ir who caused the dishonour of Cormac.⁴ Caoille an Druadh⁵ is a proof of it. Do not attribute it to Fiachaidh.
65. As for the death of Cairbre the king of many forts (?) it was by Semeon, son of Cearb his kinsman that he was slain at Gabhra.⁶ The Fian fell in revenge⁷ for him.
66. For his coming with the Fian of Finn against us vengeance was taken by Aodh son of Garaidh⁸ when he slew Mogh Corb—it is an old story—in the fight at the hill of Sean-Chua.⁹

ÉISTO A LUĞAÍO REM LABRA. TAÚS McDÁIRE cct.

1. Éirto a luğairò rem labra · ó tsoi-re i n-alt m'asallma
léis Topna reacuinn go re · tabair féin d'ainpá t'aire.
2. D'easla nac tiocpa a dtuair · léisfeao beasán aighnir uaim
do deapbá d' noubairt mé · ip d'aitceo ar aill uairre.
3. Sác fneasra tugar ar miall · gé tú d'eanfuil ip Corc tiar
ní deacár céim tar an gcóir · mar bur follur i gcéad-óir.
4. Munab as iarriaró bine · do d'eanam d'uib ar file
ní buó cuirte duit a-mac · díogail fala ná éasnac.
5. Dá mberóir rliocht cróda Cuinn · na gcéro-neart as eirdeact
ruinn
níor cuirte d'óib um asair · act file dom ionnamail.
6. Níor éasnuidear aicme Cuinn · níor ceart an tuigre a ráo
ruinn
ar fon ceirt clann Éibir fínn · do easra mar do dligfínn.
7. So deapb ip fearac d'aoib féin · ní d'óiseab fíadain i gcéin
d'á mbeinn re héasnac clann Cuinn · nac mar d'ubairt
a-dearuiinn.
8. Mí mé do tairgfeao clú a ngníom · re raob-diallaib do
buan díob
nó dá mberóir leo locta · níor tairgear a lom-nocta.
9. Do cím fein nac fulang lib · beasán d'fíir-téir cloinne
Éibir
do labra d'ain-pa na scait · ní gabtaoi é act na éasnac.
10. Dligim ceart cloinne Éibir · do easra ann sac ár céillir
nó go ndeacainn reaca ro · níor b'oircear d'áon mo túbá.⁵
11. Ór éigean go mbia 'nar n'óán · fíunne bur fearb pé ráo
ní mire ar ciontac fíir ro · act miall Topna asur tura.
12. Deas nac ramail liom re m'asg · a teact dar cuir rib orin
d'éao
dul i gcom-šar raacar mé · d'onóir bar n-aicme uairle.
13. Iaró féin do goin a céile · ó nac uair do b'fearr Éire
léigim rin toram ip torc · act do deapbá d' noubairt.
14. Do bean Éibear na meab-ól · don cloinn oile ip d'Éireamón
deapbáo san neac ór a cionn · roša leite d'fóo Éireann.
15. Deas nac ruš rliocht Ír amáin · upmór a leite ar a lámh
ionnur nac cóir d'eanam tinn · ar poinn Éireamóin d'Éirunn.
16. Mí raibe as poinn re héibear · do fíol d'neogain act éim-fear
mac lte pé dtáirur de · tríoca céao Corca Luighe.

¹ IV. 1. ² IV. 2. ³ IV. 4. ⁴ IV. 3. ⁵ Cf. G. Jour, Apr., 1909; Walsh, *Irish. Mag. Nuabac*, 1914, p. 42. In X. 25, MSS. have *tuša*; also cf. "san focal ip luša lib · tacar do tuša tairrib," *S. Mc an Bairt*, RIA 23 L 17, II. 148, v. 6. ⁶ K. I. 108. ⁷ Ancestor of Mile, K. II. 46. ⁸ Lughaidh, K. p. 98.

[Answer to IV.]

1. Listen, Lughaidh, to my words as you can answer me.¹
Leave Torna alone for a while. Pay attention to me.
2. Lest it (your refutation) may not come from the North I will permit myself a little argumentation to prove what I said, and to refute some of what you said.
3. As regards my answer to Niall, though I am of Corc's race² I overstepped not truth as will be clear forthwith.
4. Unless you be striving to injure a poet you should not show severity hostility or reviling.
5. Were the valiant race of Conn in their first strength and listening to us they would have pitted against me a poet like myself.³
6. I did not revile Conn's race—it was not right to say so to me⁴—because of a desire to defend the rights of the race of Eibhear Fionn, as I should have been entitled to do.
7. Surely you yourselves know—I shall not take my witness from afar—that had I wished to revile Conn's race I would not have spoken as I did.
8. I would not have striven by foolish etymologies to rob them of the fame of their deeds; nor if they had faults did I seek to expose them.
9. I see that you cannot bear that I should give even a little of the evidence for the battles of the children of Eibhear. You take it all as so much reviling.
10. I am entitled to plead the rights of Eibhear's race in every reasonable case. Till I had gone beyond that no one should have reproached⁵ me.
11. As there must be in my poem truth which will be unpleasant to speak, I am not responsible for that but Niall and Torna and yourself.
12. Almost like death to me is the consequence of the (charge of) envy of which you accuse me, namely the close criticism I shall proceed to make of the honour of your noble race.
13. Since Eire was not improved by their mutual slaughter I shall leave that alone except for the purpose of proving what I have said.
14. Eibhear of the mead-feasts took from the other sons and from Eireamhon his choice half of Eire's land—a proof that none of them was his superior.
15. Ir's⁶ race took most of his half from Eireamhon so that you have no right to be proud of Eireamhon's share of Eire.
16. There was only one man of Breoghan's⁷ race sharing his land with Eibhear, namely, the son of Ith⁸ by whom was got of it the cantred Corca Luighdhe.

17. Dá b'féadad neac ar zac taob · roinn éireann eatorra
ar don
tuigfid naé faibé mar rin · éireamón ór cionn éibir.
18. An b'peat atadai do labra · do b'peit d'áimhirsin áimra
fasam i poris nó i laoró lib · mar fa znát ² slóir áimhirsin.
19. I poris ³ rus áimhirsin b'peit · roir a b'ráitrib zan éleit
dar éuir iad ar fead naoi uonon · ir tuait d'ac-álan dé
Danann.
20. I scom-uaim fileata ar tuinn · do ráir na b'raitra na
luing
d'iarrair roirbir dá n-eactra · dar r'suir ⁴ an n'saoit
no-raoirdeacta.
21. I n-áirde filead a-rir · do labair as teact i uoir
mar tá zá lán do meabair · do r'uir éirs i n-inbairib.
22. An b'peit rin dá mbeirad ré · a luáir an s'piorde féin
naé fuigfid i n-áirde linn · mar zac áirde dá n-áimhinn.
23. Ní clor an m'pearan ann · clann m'ilead as teact anall
ir ead fa haisne don o'ruing · com-bair com-éornam com-
roinn.
24. Zan m'pearan as dá neac · zníon nó maáil ní bí b'peat
cionnur do b'arctadai mar roin · b'peat ir iad zan m'pearan.
25. Níor éurta b'peat i leit ruad · zan beir d'ligteac zan beir
buan
níor d'ligte d'óib i mar roin · níor buana d'óib na d'asair.
26. Dá d'earbad rin ir rinnir · do togtadai i n'éirinn innir
mar éann fine peac zac fear · ó roin as macaib m'ilead.
27. San leabair labrair don b'peit · ór éisean dúinn zan a éleit
atáir neite ré scoir roin · zá atáir reanair na n-asair.
28. Má éis féin na asair féin · luáirde ir cóir beir dá réir
a fáimail ní r'giat éornam · do b'peit ionznáit éascomáil.
29. Dá b'fasad neac ionad úinn · fada ó éart ar éirinn
uill
éire níor dúctais d'ó roin · níor fealbuis i 'r níor éornam.
30. Ámlaró meairam sup beanta · béim ar éorna fa teacta
tar slóir ar a u'uisgead fear · urruim rinnir do
r'óirair.
31. Ir lóir leam-ra an leac ar fearr · tarla ar éibear r'asuin
reang
poza leite don dá leac · mar d'earbocad zo demineac.

¹ IV. 8. ² For uses of znát v. Vocab. Cf. "a fáit ar d'aisne rún
znát · a éir comáirle i s'conad," C. McDáiré, RIA 23 C 18, p. 66, v. 43.

³ Ir. Texte, II. 35, 61. Hardiman, II. 349. ⁴ Cf. "a r'sur r'óla i b'raoc
deabta" "Thou who checkest plunder," C. McDáiré, RIA 23 C 18 p. 66, v.
44.

⁵ Trans. Ossianic Soc., v. 237; Ir. Texte iii. 62. ⁶ ? ⁷ IV. 9.

⁸ IV. 12.

17. If any one examines in every way the division of Eire between them he will see that Eireamhon was not over Eibhear.
18. As for the judgment you mention ¹ as given by noble Aimhirgin, let me find it in "rosc" or lay as is usual ² with the utterances of Aimhirgin.
19. In a "rosc" ³ Aimhirgin gave his judgment between his brothers clearly by which he put them and the comely Tuatha De Danan back nine waves' length.
20. In poetic measure in his ship on the wave praying for prosperity for their journey he spoke the words by which he stopped ⁴ the magic wind.
21. In poetic composition did he also speak when landing, as many men have by heart (such chants) for seeking fish in river-mouths.⁵
22. Had he given that judgment, Lughaidh, do you believe that it would not be found in poetic form in our possession like the other ones I mention?
23. No dispute was ever recorded on that occasion when Mile's sons were landing. Their disposition was mutual affection, mutual effort and fair sharing.
24. Unless there be a dispute between two men or as regards two actions or rules there can be no judgment (?). How then could there have been a judgment seeing they had no dispute?
25. A judgment without force of law or lasting effect should not be attributed to a sage. It did not constitute a law or fixture for them afterwards.
26. As proof of that, elders before others were always chosen afterwards by Mile's sons in sea-girt Eire to rule the tribe.
27. In the book ⁶ which speaks of the judgment—since I must not deny its existence—there are said many things besides, to which the lore of the ancients is opposed.
28. As it contradicts itself there is the less reason for following it. A book like it is no shield of defence for a strange and extraordinary judgment.
29. If one succeeded to the place of Donn that is not constituting a claim to Eire (K), Eire was not his country, he never possessed it nor fought for it.
30. Thus I think that Torna is to be blamed for referring ⁷ to a passage whence one might conclude that the elder should yield submission to the younger.
31. I am quite satisfied ⁸ with the better half that fell to splendid graceful Eibhear, the choice half of the two halves, as I shall prove with certainty.

32. 1r fearr leat éibir go n-aoib • ó bóinn toir go Cluithna
éaomh
ná an leat ó bóinn go rruib bpoim • tugad o'Éireamhón
angbaró.
33. Mó ar mearraghte o'fuaét do tear • líonmhairé do mil do
meap
foigre da gac maic tar muir • lia a caipáca a com-uirain.
34. Mó do tomur triócaó céao • bairr fóir ar a maic a méao
ní ar an airo a bfuil roim • labhair go triom na huadóir.
35. Faoa ó cángar tar an ainm • iomda fein-ríribhinn dá gairm
tar ceann é'iomad ciall do éur • ní tiocfa díot a díúltad.
36. Na hil-cialla ataoi do ríom • dá bfiarraigead neac cia
óioib
dá otis an t-ainm o'iaé bpeag • cuma leatpa déc nac o'Éibear.
37. Oo geabta i bfuil ar léigear • Éibear daró ainm hibeirur
hibernia sur dá ainm éis • i oteangtaib nac i an Scoitic.
38. Atáro tíre ar treire i bfuadé • an t-ainm ció nac dóib do
fuadé
már ó méao fuadéa éis rin • fiarraig uaim-re doo léigim.
39. Gé tá Éire ran airo tiar • atáro tíre i otoiineann srian
le linn eirca a cuarta a le • nac hibernia ná Éire.
40. 1r follur turnamh don gnein • ann gac tír fásgbar dia héir
ó tá an doimhan i moó éruinn • 1r rpeár gneine na ceapcuill.
41. Ainm do tír peac a céile • mar rin tré turnamh gneine
dá npeacáó easnuir dá meap • ní meapfaó sur éuir
oirceap.
42. Daoine as epeveamain dá gcéill • cósgbar an rian ceap dá
rpeim
dá leana ar cialla mar roim • ná rloinn ó Téa Teamair.
43. Focail il-ciallóa péadéar • na gcuir móir n-uógar céafaró
bpeiteamnar dípeac dóib roim • go srian⁶ a bfuir ní péadair.⁷
44. Na cialla éuire ran ainm • má tá tarbá dó na gairm
ó nac tú ar bpeiteam oipa • maic áit éibir eatorpa.
45. Áireamh éadé ní mé do éruall • ar oúir déc Topua asur
llall
ní oipa baó mó mo gean • a npeanam roim nó a n-áireamh.
46. Níor maoirdeap meirpe a npeinim • roéar píol éibir o'Éirunn
mó o'Éirunn go móir pé meap • ar fásgbar óioib ná ar áirimeap.

¹ K. II. 96. There were two Srub Broin, one in W. Munster, this one in Co. Donegal (Stroove).. ² Cf. Eriu, iii. 12. Jeremias, i. 14, etc.

³ IV. 14-17. ⁴ Syllable short. ⁵ IV. 33, i.e., as in this case so in others you should follow the traditional derivation. ⁶ < etar. Prototon. Pres. Pass of ad-cota. Cf. Thurneys § 540. ⁷ Cf. "fior srian iomall fa

dompeap • o'fior o'fionnagall 1r o'fior-gaoirdeal," C. McÓáipe, RIA 23 F 16, p. 32, v. 41. ⁸ IV. 21, etc.

32. Eibhear's fair half from the Boinn in the East to fair Cliodhna is better than the half from the Boinn to Srubh Broin ¹ which was given to fierce Eireamhon.
33. It is more temperate in cold and heat, fuller of honey and fruit, nearer to all goods over-sea, richer in cities and neighbours.
34. Greater is it in number of cantreds. Its size too crowns its excellence. It is not of the quarter where these advantages are that writers speak harshly! ²
35. Long ago has the name (Hibernia, i.e. Eibhear's land) been written of. Many old writings apply it. In spite of your inventing many other meanings you cannot deny it.
36. Were one to ask which of the various meanings you enumerate ³ is the one whence comes the name of the land of the Breagha ⁴ you care not, provided it be not from Eibhear.
37. Besides all I have read you will find in languages other than the Scottic that "Hibernia" comes from "Eibhear" called "Hiberus." (K).
38. There are lands of harsher cold; ask your scholar from me why the name has not been applied to them, if it comes from excess of cold.
39. Though Eire is in the West, there are other lands not called Hibernia or Eire where the sun in its journey sets.
40. The setting of the sun is clearly seen in every land it leaves behind, since the world is of a round shape, and the solar firmament is a sphere.
41. That one land rather than another should be called after the sunset—a sage on examining the matter would find such an explanation a poor one.
42. People who trust their own sense destroy at its root the true process of judgment. If you wish to get meanings like that do not derive Teamhair from Tea. ⁵
43. Let the words of varied meanings be examined, those in which many authors find a (*i.e.*, each a different) sense. Such men have ⁶ no straight method of settling the fundamental meaning ⁷ of the words.
44. As you are not the judge as to the derivations you mention for the name (Hibernia), (the derivation from) Eibhear has a good place—if that be a benefit to him. (K).
45. It was not I who started the recounting of the crimes. ⁸ I was merely answering Niall. I love them none the more for those crimes or for the story of them. (K).
46. I did not recount—it would have been the worse for you—(all) the benefits of Eibhear's race to Eire. Much more important to Eire was what I omitted than what I said.

47. Sīðeað tīocfaið ʒoð laðiðeað · pul rʒuīrfeap mē ʒo
maorðeob
roðair ó fuil éibir fīnn · ap mō ʒo fōir ap éirinn.
48. Aét ʒo ʒuʒap fpeaʒpa ap tūr · feirpwe an aīʒe¹ a cup i
nolūr
op an ʒaé tapða tīonól² · maorðe ap aīme éīpeamōin.
49. An ʒ'eapbaīð ʒnīom ʒcōir pē pāið · nō le tīomao laðpa
lāin³
māorðe roðair opna rin · ʒan aon cūið ʒōib na nōéinn.
50. Oibpīʒte a ʒūl ap cōil nōé · ʒo fealþað⁴ ʒōib nīor mōl
mē
mō ʒo mōr ʒuīr-fe īr ʒōib · ʒo mārla é nā ʒ'onōir.
51. ʒā māorðe tū map bpeit ʒill · oibpīʒte ʒé ʒōib pē linn
ap lopuaīð īr māorðte rin · bpeit Cpiopt pē linn i mDeitil.
52. ʒaé loé ʒaé linn ʒā laðpa · op ʒōib pēin tēro a ʒtapða
fuil éibir īr ʒōib ʒo ling · ap a ʒcūið pēin ʒon éirinn.
53. Aétāro a lān ʒo loðaið · īr apale ʒo fpočaið
aʒ ap mō ʒ'iniir ʒanða · a nōit nā a nōeaʒ-tapða.
54. ʒāiðteap leo nī roðap paop · ceaʒpa aʒur ʒaoine mapan
ʒan pēap ʒan iot congþaro poīn · a mbi fūta ʒon talmain.
55. ʒibé maið nō pait ʒo nīao · noča māorðte ap éin-pīʒ iao
aét ap an pīʒ ap nī ap nīm · nap iapri congnañ pā nōéinn.
56. Muīʒe ʒo buain a cōill lū · aʒmāim ʒomað roðap rin
mō ʒo roðap buain na maʒ · ʒo cōill-pleaʒ nʒonn-puað
nʒanap.
57. Nīor ʒoirpēað aét allur ball · aʒ pīol ʒCuinn aʒ teapʒað
cpann
ʒ'fuil ʒāil ʒCair ʒo ʒoirpēað ciot · aʒ leoð pleaʒ luēt⁷
na lūipoc.
58. Muna þeantaoi nī cēlim · ʒon cōill pa ʒeoīʒ a-ʒeipim
beaʒ tapða a ʒteapʒað ap tūr · maiʒe fōðla īr é a n-iomtūr.
59. ʒuain maʒ nēīpeann teap īr tūið · ʒon cōill rin ʒap ʒocpa
a mbuain
pīol nēibir īr iao ʒo þean · īr opna ap cōir a n-āīpeam.
60. An muip-þpūct mapā māorðe · a luað ʒā ʒlōr ap paorðe
māp map roðap māorðe a luʒ · mō a ʒoðap nā a roðap.
61. Māp é a māorðeam ʒo nī · lēim pāiprʒe tap bloīʒ ʒo tīp
cormail ʒo māorðpīwe poīn · ʒā mbāiðci uile ap nōūčaiʒ.

¹ Also oīʒe, oīʒe. Cf. Gloss. Laws, and note on xxii. 17. ² Leg. an
tīonól? ³ Cf. infra VI. 269; XVI. 184; XVIII. 14; also feap laðapða lāin
Anecd. ii., p. 51, ll. 8, 13, 14; T.C.D. F. 4, 13, fol. 6a, a spokesman with full
powers (K). ⁴ Cf. "a fīr fealþap ʒuīr an ʒān," ʒ. mc an ʒairo, RIA
23 L. 17, p. 148, v. 1. ⁵ IV. 20, etc. ⁶ IV. 23. ⁷ luēt na l., taken as one
word or else luēt is genitive for luēta, cf. infra 177. ⁸ i.e., Danes' spears.
⁹ IV. 23.

47. Yet the result of your provoking me will be that, before I cease, I shall mention those benefits of the race of Eibhear Fionn which benefited Eire most.
48. But first—the poem¹ will be the better for its being made compact—let me answer you about the benefits of your party² which you boast of on behalf of Eireamhon's race.
49. Is it from want of deeds fit to be mentioned, or from loquacity³ that you boast for them of benefits, in conferring which they had no part?
50. I thought it wrong that they should take the credit⁴ of the operations of God's elements according to His will. This was rather to insult than to do honour to you and your folk.
51. If you attribute to them as a mark of superiority the operations of God in their day you should attribute to Herod Christ's birth at Bethlehem in his reign.
52. As the benefit of every lake and pool which you mention⁵ accrues to them (i.e. Eireamhon's race) they burst forth for Eibhear's race too on their part of Eire.
53. There are many lakes and streams too which do more harm than benefit to Inis Banba.
54. By them are drowned—a dear benefit!—cattle and men too. They keep all the land beneath them without grass or corn.
55. Whatever good or harm they do is not to be attributed to any king, but to the King of kings in Heaven who asked no one's help in creating them.
56. As for your clearing plains from wood⁶ I grant that to be a benefit, but a greater benefit was the clearing of the plains from the forest of the dark red lances of the Danars.
57. In cutting trees Conn's race shed only their sweat. Showers of blood were shed by the Dal gCais in cutting down the spears of the mailed heroes.⁷
58. Had they not been cleared afterwards—I cannot be silent as to this—of the wood I speak of, small advantage would have been those of the plains of Fodla that were cleared previously—seeing their history.
59. The clearing of the plains of Eire, South and North from that wood⁸ of which it was difficult to clear them, was done by Eibhear's race and should be attributed to it.
60. As for the sea-incursion you speak of⁹—how foolish to mention it!—if you mention it as a benefit, its harm was greater than its benefit.
61. If it be the bursting of the sea over a part of the land which makes you boast of it you probably would boast of our whole country being flooded!

62. Aitáir típe maic an bpeac · 'r ir é ar molaib ionnta ar neac
blois talman dá tóirac óé · do buain o'faiptege nó o'uirge.
63. Ní rocair san éirio dóib féin · do rónrao rluicé éibir féil
rocair dá rabad na seall · do rónrao o'fearaib éireann.
64. Eoghan tug iao ó shorta · Urian ó doraib-urao ó dora
rocair do fóir eac mar roin · fašam ašac óo ríograo.
65. Dar leat do b'atara óóib · críoc banba so n-iomao
rlóis
na bflaitear ní tarla ói · pláša shorta náro seinnti.
66. Ní tug ní oíob dá tarta · ar fear a pé ar fonn mbanba
roinn ói do érean nó do las · dar leat do baó leo an
leanab.
67. Shóir mar rin ní fuil pé ráo · san uruins ar a noéine a
lán
lušaoe ir cóir oéanaib trum · ar éloinn éibir na sconcloinn.
68. Cúigeao raor óo ríograo tuao · as élainn éibir móir an
buao
šac neac dar ríogao don élainn · raoirpe tuao air ní
fašam.
69. Ar ríol n'éibir ar do trúir · aicneao dúinn ar don a n-iúil
maoréaib móir níor oéanta óuit · acé amáin bmašma
šorpaic.
70. Táinš éin-ní o'fuil éibir · tar éir léill ir Cuirc ééillš
do b'fearr o'ferom o'éirinn uile · ná Niall Conn ir Conaire
71. Soeair do ríograo a-nuar · áirinn leat so léir san luar
meao rocair Urian mic Ué-bionn · ní fuige io ríograo
éireann.
72. Do cabrao aor léiginn lair · do ac-éatš an eaglair
tug dá šac uruins dar mian ršol · corcar léiginn luac
leabair.
73. Tug dá éleirib féin šac cill · o'amóeoin na loingsreac
tar linn
tugšar mbeic fa doraipre trum · raoirpe dá bflaib fearainn.
74. A otug luic na long reolta · leo ar šac tír o'iapear
eóppa
ar nool aše ar a tpeabab · do roinn Urian ar šaoiréalaib.
75. An maor do bí ar šac mbaile · tug Urian fa bpeic a toite
an buana do bí ar šac tiš · tug mar moša don muinntir.
76. Iar mbeic don éirinn aóóirš · i mbuaošreao se cian o'aimr
tug ríoc innte ó binn so binn · fa hé an tupaó iar noílinn.

¹ K. II. 264. ² IV. 24. ³ Kings, III. 3, 26. ⁴ Cf. "pompla ar éoir
na éonclann ro," poem by Somairle mic an Uair, RIA 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 28.
⁵ IV. 26. ⁶ IV. 28. or "except to the extent prescribed by C.'s words"
(O'Grady, Cat.). ⁷ K. III. 256, etc. ⁸ G.G. 138.

62. There are countries in which it is matter of praise for a man—it is a good judgment—if he succeed in taking some land from the sea or flood.
63. Not benefits in which they themselves had no part were those conferred by Eibhear's race, but services for which they were pledges did they confer on the men of Eire.
64. Eoghan saved them from famine,¹ Brian from oppression and hardship. Let us see if benefits that thus profited all were conferred by your kings.
65. You would conclude that Banba with its many hosts was their fatherland.² In their reign there came not to it plagues or famine or foreigners.
66. No king of them who ruled gave in his reign over Banba a portion of it to strong or to weak. You would say the child was theirs.³
67. The race of which you make much has no boast like that to make. It is therefore the less just to revile the race of Eibhear in comparison with them.⁴
68. A province free from your northern kings was held by Eibhear's race—great was the prerogative. I do not find any liberties enjoyed by the North as against any king of Eibhear's race.
69. Against Eibhear's race you should not have boasted much of your three men⁵—both of us know all about them—except of the sayings of Cormac.⁶
70. There came of Eibhear's race, after Niall and prudent Corc, one king of greater service to all Eire than Niall Conn and Conaire.
71. Count up slowly all the benefits of your kings down the ages. You shall not find in your kings of Eire the equal of the benefits conferred by Brian, son of Bebhionn.⁷
72. Scholars were helped by him, the Church was set again in honour, he gave to all who sought learning the cost of education and of books.
73. He gave each church to its own clergy, spite of the mariners from over sea. After the churches had been in heavy bondage he gave freedom to their territorial princes.
74. What the men of the sailing ships brought with them from every land of Western Europe, Brian when he got hold of their dwellings divided it among the Gaoidheal.
75. The steward that was over every townland Brian placed beneath the authority of its folk.⁸ The hireling billeted on every house he gave as a slave to its people.
76. After splendid Eire had been in trouble for long, he established peace in her from end to end. He was the dry weather after the deluge.

77. San ferðm nðaoi ap mnaoi mēir-feriḡ • nā ap don-mac
óḡ-laoió o'Éirinn
pe ḡnion moḡraime aḡ ḡac neac • do bioð a ḡall nó a ḡallreac.
78. Nioi ainmniḡ o'don oá beḡ-ḡlioct • oúcaiḡ doim eile i
n-oḡḡreac
tuḡ a tír fēin oá ḡac flait • cairde comaoim a com-mait.
79. Tuḡ ḡloinnṡe rocair oile • nac tuḡrao ḡioḡrao ḡoime
lé oṡuiḡtear i ḡḡairm ḡac fīr • cia a tpeað do madaib
milro.
80. Nioi fāoi luḡ acṡ tuait a-māin • com-ḡar oúinne iḡ
oaoibpe a báro
aḡ rin aḡ ḡrian bapp ap luḡ • ceall aḡur tuac do fāorað.
81. Do taob Conaire ní fḡiṡ • acṡ meap nó ḡoinionn nó ḡiṡ
bioð ḡo mberoir rin pé linn • ḡearr fa rocair iao o'Éirinn.
82. Ní map é do ceanḡail ḡrian • ḡioṡcāin Éireann toir iḡ tair
nioi ḡáiniḡ oá oibeiḡḡ ro • oipeað cloinne Duinn Oéara.
83. Ní hionann táirṡear leo an éḡioó • nioib ionann fōr a oá
ḡioṡ
ní ap flaitear ḡrian ḡḡioðṡear ḡoin • tḡian fear Éireann
pe roḡail.
84. Ní iarṡa bpeiḡ do buain oinn • a loḡ Conaire nā a fīl
oá n-antā rinn i moð ceapṡ • acṡ ḡo léiḡtear a ḡcompeapṡ.⁵
85. Nioib fearr Cormac pe ceapṡ fēin • do oéanaḡ cūpe ḡo pēro
ionā ḡrian i ḡcūir cōra • aḡ leanmāin luirḡ canōna.
86. Do Conn iḡ meirde a māoideam • a comaoim ap éḡiṡ nḡaoideat
an comaoim nac é do cūir • 'r a beir ap beaḡān rocair.
87. Oāmað é Conn map nac é • do ḡeabað ḡōro ḡo teac Té
o'Éirinn fá beaḡ rocair ḡoin • téiḡṡi ḡan iao ḡo Teamair.
88. Muna páirṡeac na ḡúinib • o'ḡollamnaṡ Oé ap a oúilū
meapap tupa beir do Conn • cḡeao oó māroḡ loó nó abann.
89. Cūp mōr ḡcaṡ iḡtiḡ fa tír • ní céim ap ionmāoioṡte ap ḡiḡ
amail māoioṡtear libpe ap Conn • 'r ḡan éin-ḡleo i n-aḡaró
eaṡṡḡonn.
90. Map rin ḡupū fearr ḡrian a-bāin • map ḡein rocair o'Inir
fāil
nār an tḡiūp áirne a luḡ • 'r a n-áipeam ḡo n-a rocair.
91. Mār i rin do caipṡ ap fearr • ní caipṡ i ap a beirṡte teann
ionann oaoibpe beir ḡan caipṡ • na neirṡe taoi do labairṡ.

¹ U. Lám-faoa, cf. Eriu, i. 89. Ag. 5276. ² IV. 27. ³ Togail Bruidne Da Dearga, Rev. Celt. xxii., § 9, 19, 41, 46. MSS. amic. ⁴ "Batar dibergaig tra trian fer nErend hi flaith Conaire," Rev. Celt. Togail B. Da Dearga, xxii. § 43. ⁵ Cf. O'Curry, M. C. I., ccclxx; Tog. B. Da Dearga, Rev. Celt. xxii. § 7. A n- "their" referring to fīacāro fear-mapa (cf. XVIII. 57) as well as Conaire. ⁶ IV. 28. ⁷ IV. 29, etc.

77. There was no servile service on any slender-fingered woman or on any son of a warrior of Eire. For slaves' work each one had a foreigner man or woman.
78. He assigned not to anyone of his good race another's land as an inheritance, but gave his own land to each chief. Where was there a benefit like that ?
79. He introduced surnames—another benefit—which no king did before him so that in the name of each man one sees to which tribe of Mile's sons he belongs.
80. Lughaidh ¹ freed the laity alone, and the thanks for that is as closely binding on us as on you. Brian surpasses Lughaidh in that he freed churches as well as laity.
81. As for Conaire ² the only benefits of his which were acquired were fruit or good weather or peace. Though these existed in his time they were a shortlived benefit to Eire.
82. Not so did Brian establish peace East and West. Numbers great as the sons of Donn Deasa did not succeed in spoiling her. (K).³
83. Not in the same way was the land got by them (Brian and Conaire). Very different was the peace each established. It is not of Brian's reign that it is written "one-third of the men of Eire engaged in plundering." ⁴
84. You would not have tried on the score of Conaire or his seed to deny us our superiority, had you acquiesced as we do in the truth, and if you read the story of their conceptions.⁵
85. For the peaceful settling of causes by his law Cormac ⁶ was not better than Brian following the precedent of law in doing of justice.
86. It is no service to Conn to boast of his benefit ⁷ to the land of the Gaoidheal, the benefit which it was not he who conferred, and which besides was of little use.
87. If it had been Conn—as it was not—who acquired the roads to the house of Te, that was of small use to Eire. Folk used to go to Teamhair without them.
88. Unless you make Conn partner in the mysteries of God's power over His elements, what had the springing forth of lakes or rivers to do with him ? (K).
89. The fighting of many battles in the land as you boast of in the case of Conn is nothing to boast of for a king, seeing that he fought no battle against foreigners.
90. In this respect Brian alone was better as a profitable son of Inis Fail than the three you mention, O Lugh, with their benefits.
91. If that be your best charter it is not one to be confident in. You might as well have no charter as those things.

92. Ní hiaḁ féin roḁ-éuir na fáir • tearḁaḁ coille ní céim cáir
marḁm loḁ ḁo ruaiḁnḁ nḁ ² rḁeaḁ • ní ḁearna ḁuine aḁḁ
ḁúileam.
93. Tuigḁe ḁo cáḁ ḁá ḁriḁḁ rin • an cáirt ar fearr luaiḁtear lib.
ḁo cáirt oile naḁ fiú a mear • mar naḁ fiú ire a haiḁnear.
94. Tomarḁm loḁ tomairḁm aiḁneaḁ • fáir cranḁ mbláit-ḁorḁaḁ
mbarr-ḁeal
ḁibé ní ar a ḁriḁḁe a ḁrior • ná tuig ḁó aḁḁ a n-oirḁar.
95. Máir oiḁneaḁḁ ḁi-re ir ḁá ríol • an teaḁ rin Teamra na ríoiḁ
mó ar luaḁ ráimic a realḁ rin • ḁá éir cúigear mac éibir.
96. Sul táimic céaḁ ḁo ḁrí céaḁ • i nḁeaḁaiḁ luḁoine ḁ'éas
Moḁ Corḁ ḁ'fine éibir finḁ • ḁo ba láin-ní é ar éirinn.
97. fearḁ ré nḁlún na ḁiaiḁ ḁá ríol • ḁaḁ neaḁ ḁíoiḁ ran ruiḁe
ríoiḁ
an ḁerḁe ḁo mbioḁ ré linn • roinn mac nluḁoine ar éirinn.
98. Níor ḁairmeaḁ ní ḁ'aoin-fear uainḁ • ḁan neart éireann
tear ir tuaiḁ
ríoiḁraḁ iomlán lḁuḁan Mir • cia an tóranḁ tar naḁ téigḁoir.
99. Ar rḁaraḁ ní ḁon ḁairm ríoiḁ • ní hé luḁoine ná a ríol
táinḁ ḁ'foirneart orra ir-teaḁ • aḁḁ tréin-ríoiḁḁ ír míc
níileaḁ.
100. Mar rin ir pollur ḁo cáḁ • naḁ féirḁir ḁo ríoiḁ a ráḁ
trí céaḁ bliadḁan ḁo raiḁe • neart ḁanḁa aḁ ríoiḁḁ luḁoine.
101. Iarraḁ cáirḁe a huḁḁ Tuatail • ionḁnaḁ aníú ar éirinn
uaḁuḁ
na ré féin fuair Tuatail cor • 'r ní hé a mac fuair a ionaḁ.
102. Aiḁiḁ Tuata tárla ir tír • Sanḁ Eoḁaḁ ir foirḁríḁ
orra ḁo ḁaḁ Tuatail teann • aḁraiḁ ré orra a coinḁeall.
103. Níor máir beo ḁ'aro-éloinn éibir • aḁḁ don macaom caoin-
céillḁ
'r é i n-am Tuatail ḁ'raḁáil neirt • ó Aiḁeaḁ Tuait ar
ḁíbeirt.
104. Ná beir uaim naḁ fuair féirḁlim • real ḁá aimrḁir ar éirinn
a lor a élorḁim fuair roin • 'r ní mar oiḁre i n-ait Tuatail.
105. Mó ar laḁ an iarraḁ ḁarma • maol-ráḁa ḁan mór-ḁarḁa
ḁan ionnta aḁḁmar ḁaḁ n-ionaḁ • aḁḁ beir real ar ruiḁiugaḁ.
106. Fearr an real cuḁraḁ ra éion • aiḁnḁ ḁúinn ar don aimoiḁ
Curo ḁíoiḁ ḁan buain aca ruiḁ • aḁḁ foirneart aḁaḁ ḁ'aimrḁir.

¹ fáir . . . cáir? Cf. Contrib. sub. cáir. fáir is unusual. ² MSS. na. ³ iv. 33.
⁴ III. 14. ⁵ IV. 36. ⁶ K. II. 174, etc. ⁷ Rennes Dind, § 51. ⁸ <uaḁ? or "lonely" or "uaḁaiḁ" (K²), "strange of them." ⁹ M. 56. ¹⁰ Corḁ
ólum, cf. *New Irel. Review*, Oct., 1906. ¹¹ K. II. 258. ¹² i.e., f.
reacḁmar. ¹³ IV. 39.

92. It was not the men themselves who made the trees grow.¹ To cut them down is nothing very difficult. Not man but the Creator caused the lakes and the rivers to burst forth, conspicuously.²
93. Therefore all can see that as the best charter you can mention is not worth discussion your other is not worth considering.
94. As for the bursting of lakes and rivers and the growth of fair-fruited bright-topped trees, attribute not to the king of whom you will find these things told, any credit except what is fitting.
95. If that house of Teamhair of the kings be the inheritance of her (Tea)³ and her race, all the quicker did its possession pass afterwards to the five sons of Eibhear.⁴
96. Before one hundred of your three hundred years⁵ had passed after Iughoine's death, Mogh Corb of Eibhear Fionn's race was full-king over Eire.
97. During six generations⁶ of his race after Mogh Corb, every man of them in the kingly seat, think you that the disposition of Eire made by Iughoine held good?
98. None of us was ever styled king but swayed Eire North and South. What border did they not cross, all the Kings of Mumha Mis?⁷
99. When the title of king passed from them, not Iughoine or his seed but the brave race of Ir came in by force over them.
100. Thus it is clear to all that it cannot be truly said that for three hundred years Banba was ruled by Iughoine's race.
101. It is strange that you seek to-day your title to fierce⁸ Eire on the score of Tuathal. In his own day he met with reverse, nor was it his son that succeeded him.
102. The Aithach Tuatha were in the land, Sanbh, Eochaidh and Foirbriogh.⁹ Stout Tuathal attacked them and forces his terms on them.
103. Of Eibhear's noble race there was then alive only one gentle sensible boy,¹⁰ and he, while Tuathal was winning back his sway, was an exile from the Aithach Tuatha.¹¹
104. Do not think I deny that Feidhlim¹² spent some time ruling Eire. By his sword he won the power, not as Tuathal's heir.
105. Weaker still as a claim to title are the bare useless forts¹³ which differ not from any other spot except that they were built long ago.
106. Short was the time that some of them spent in honour—we both know it now. Your folk had no connection with them except to rule there some time.

107. Iṛ fearr mār i gcomhmar éiad · mar bortaib oipeádaí iad
puirte fíleáda éibir na n-eac · Corcaé Bortaíaire Luimneac.
108. Dá mbeir ní ar bortaib áille · níor d'earmaróte Dún gCláire
Dún Iarṡ Carpal iṛ Míin-maṡ · Áine Clíac iṛ Ceann Coraó.
109. Aitcheoḃ b'reíteṛe naḃarḃ fíor · bíoḃ go t'iocepaḃ tar beal ríog
oipeáar o'fíliḃ gá mbiaḃ fíor · dá mbeanaḃ rir an aighear.
110. Tar ceann a t'asṡar-re a luṡ · 'r conṡnam Néill ro ceann⁵
ro cúṛ
a ṡairm ro ceap ní féac ríḃ · an-flait Teamra o'fíul éibir.
- III. Eacṡrainn pláṡa ná ṡorta · na b'flaitear fearrro e a rompla
ro t'eacṡ ré linn níor léiṡ ríḃ · roirḃ an-flait oíḃ ro
o'éinnm.
- II2. A b'fíul iṛ fearac ro eac · biaḃ cuimne a roí-ṡníom ṡo b'páḃ
níor ceap an-flait ro ṡairm oíḃ · ní léiṡtear oíṛa roí-
ṡníom.
- II3. Ríṡ mar fíorineap tuile aṡ t'eacṡ · impear a ṡceap mar a
neap
ṡo b'páḃain o'eolcáib maite · iṛ ríu ar ionpáḃ an-flait.
- II4. Aomáḃ Torna na d'án féin · méac a rṡáda re b'reiṡ Néill
ionṡnaḃ oíṡ-re a féana roin · mar ṡac féana roḃ féantaib
- II5. Taorṡa ar oíṡtear o'áicme íṛ · Cúige Ulaḃ na n-eang mīn
ionár luacáir arḃ úṛ-eap · báḃac neac ré fearn-oíṡtear.
- II6. Tuigro luét tuigre t'romḃa · an leac éuaḃ o'án oíḃ Torna.
a báḃ ríu náṛ d'earmaro roin · t're beir i luacáir Deaṡarḃ.
- II7. Dá ríomṡar ríṡ fearpa a-raon · na nṡlúimḃ oíorṡa ar ṡac
taoḃ
ní fúige Torna aṡur luṡ · ro b'reiṡ aṡ miall dá ceapṡar.
- II8. Curo don beaṡán b'reiṡe féin · ro ṡeáḃṡaoi lḃ ro taoḃ Néill
ro báḃar rínnirir éuir e t'reall⁹ · com-é'rean ríu ar lḃir
éireann.
- II9. Do éin ó Corc ó ṡorceair¹⁰ · ríogṡar ar ró-mó móltaíṛ
nár an t'roṡ aṡmne ṡo teann · uaiḃ i n-oipeácar éireann.
- II0. Ní beaṡ o'eiṛiomláir o'éirinn · dála Néill Caille iṛ f'érolim
miall ro cúṛ ro ríogṡarḃ toir · f'érolim ro cúṛ ó éommarḃ.¹²
- II1. Fuaíṛ a ṡruaḃ ar ṡné mónann¹³ · o'áinn optimus Scotorum
teirḃ f'érolim dá léiṡtear lat · léiṡ teirḃ Columb ar
Cormac.

¹ Co. Limerick.² Cahir.³ n. Bruree.⁴ Knockany, Co. Limerick.⁵ Cf. "an t-aor dána ceann i ṡceann" "all together." p. ón éáinte. RIA. 23 E. 15, p. 181, v. 5.⁶ II. 45.⁷ K. II. 100, cf. IV. 41, 43.

Torna was of Ir's race.

⁸ i.e., 39 and 31.⁹ Cf. "i ṡcienn t'píll," t.

m'eóáire, RIA. 23 C. 18, p. 66, v. 27.

¹⁰ MSS. ó, i ṡorceaíṡ. K. II. 386.¹¹ p. mac C'ruimṡainn, cf. A. Innisf.; CC. § 2.¹² Cf. "cáir ro éuaḃ na¹³ Cf. mónog, mónaḃán. ¹⁴ K. II. 349. Reference?

107. If they be compared as seats of power, better are the strong places of the race of Eibhear of the horses, Corcach, Portlairge, Luimneach.
108. Were it a question of fair forts, one should not forget Dun gClaire,¹ Dun Iasg,² Caiseal Magh Min,³ Aine Cliach,⁴ Ceann Coradh.
109. To refute untruth, though it be on the lips of a king, beseems the poet who might know what pertains to the question.
110. Spite of your arguments, O Lugh—and Niall's help given you ⁵—you cannot in truth call Eibhear's race "usurpers of Teamhair."
111. You have not read of foreigners, plagues, or famines in their time of sway—better is their example for that! It is hard therefore to make them out usurpers.
112. Their descent all men know. Their good deeds shall be remembered ever. It was not right to call them "usurpers." No evil deed is read of them.
113. It is kings who advance as the crushing might of a torrent, kings who measure their right by their might, whom one may—as good sages attest—justly call "usurpers."
114. Torna admits in his poem how he feared Niall's anger.⁶ Strange that you deny that, like the many other things you deny.
115. The native country of Ir's race is rather Cuige Uladh of the smooth lands than high green-tangled Luachair.⁷ Everyone is fond of his own land.
116. People can understand—'tis a weighty point—that Torna forgot not his love for the North Half—of which he was—through being in Luachair.
117. If the kings preceding them both be counted up in their direct generations on each side, Torna and Lughaidh will not find Niall to have a superiority of eight (over Corc).⁸
118. As to some of this majority which you might find Niall to have, Corc's ancestors were their fellows for a time ⁹ in power over Eire.
119. From Corc of the purple ears ¹⁰ there descended princes much more highly praised than the race you proudly count as yours in the kingship of Eire.
120. Instance enough for all men (of your bias) in the case of Niall Caille and Feilim ¹¹ is that you put Niall in your list of kings and put Feilim out of it (:).¹²
121. Feilim, whose cheek was as the berries,¹³ was called "optimus scotorum." When this testimony to Feilim is being read by you read that of Columb about Cormac (?).¹⁴

- I22. Léig a gcomh-néim san céim tláir · léig a d'á mbeatair 'r
a mbáir
fearr go mór o'fíadain iao ro · ná duain Siolla Mo 'Dubda.
- I23. Mór-gcúir d'á n'óeanam taróbreac · do veir bar n-áiream
aróbreac
do g'éabtar uaim blaó d'á fíor · go nac faib cáe na
ambíor
- I24. Tríúr i n-éin-ré it áiream ríog · o'rong na gcúplaib áirne
óioó
d'éanam nuimre ruar mar rin · ní ceir é o'fíor a n-áirne.
- I25. Do g'éabta ré léigean uaim · i gcuro doo d'eig-leabhair
tuair
beas nár léigte d'am um toir · com-flair ceatfair i
gcumoirg.
- I26. Mar rin áiream do ríograó · nac congnam a mbeir líonhár
do bríge go n-áirnecear lib · umhír trír ar uaim éin-fir.
- I27. Cúir oile ar follar do cáe · inneorao ní r'geal san fáe
t-ionao áirne ríog a luí · do teact do cúir nac iongraó.
- I28. Teamair breag i mbíoir ríge · ar bar gcuro-re tuair don tír
ní lammasoir aet le ró neir · r'cúir an ar-o'púir oirdeir.
- I29. An tráe nac teagmáó rí óinn · ná o'fuir luig'oeac ná
o'fuir ír
ir in teag rin Teamrae breag · beir oib féin ann níorb
airdear.
- I30. Rí Éireann do gairmte lib · don tí fá t'reir ar an tig
tar ceann f'earabha fur roin · ó beir i t'reir ar Teamrae.
- I31. Gairm ríog Éireann do gairm oioó · san gabail gíall san
cuairt ríog
ná tuig o'Éirinn ní ra mó · fán ngairm aet pars pro toto.
- I32. D'á dearbhaó rin féaca féin · mar veir ceart gac ríog
go réil⁴
rí Ua Néill maó neartmar rin · nac olíg ceart do ríge
Cairil.
- I33. Tuigfir ar rin máó áil uaim · nac iomlán do ríograó tuair
ní hiomlán Éire mar rin · má' curo o'Éirinn rí Cairil.
- I34. Dearbhaó oile ó b'fúige a b'fíor · u'g'oir annála ir oirdear
ir eao r'griobair opra amac · i ngairm na ríog rí Teamrae.
- I35. Mór dearbhaó ré cur na ceann · gíó fearb rin fíoinn-
fídear leam
ar gairm ríog do gairm don o'reim · ar taob re hurruinn
o'Éirinn.

¹ Éire óg inir na naem. Todd, Lect. iii. 408. L. had not mentioned him in IV. ² Between Boyne and Liffey. ³ Son of Ith. ⁴ First line of poem. K. Mey. Miscell.

122. Read, without weak bias, the comparison of their reigns, their lives and deaths. As evidence better far are these than Giolla Mo Dhubhda's poem.¹
123. It is pride, making them out to be splendid, which makes your account so boastful. You shall get from me some facts about them, so that none may be ignorant of them.
124. In your account you give as successive kings three reigning together, and also sets of two. It is no trouble for the computer to make up the number thus !
125. I will give you to read in your good Northern books—I was near being silent about it—even four kings reigning together.
126. Such is the counting of your kings that their numerousness avails you not, seeing that you count (as successive) three kings for the period of one.
127. I shall give another reason clear to all, namely that the excess in your numbers is due to a not unnatural cause.
128. Teamhair of the Breagha ² where dwelt kings is in your North land. We never ventured, except when we had very great power, to rule that famous stronghold. (K).
129. When there happened to be no king of our stock, or of Lughaidh's,³ or of Ir's, in the place of Teamhair it was no out of the way thing that some of you should be there !
130. You styled anyone who ruled in that palace "King of Eire," even though he had opposition, simply because he ruled in Teamhair.
131. In the title "King of Eire," if there be no taking of hostages or kingly circuit, understand by "Eire" a part for the whole.
132. As proof of that, notice how the "charter of all kings" clearly states that if a king be ruling of the Í Neill, he can claim no rights from Caiseal's king. (K).
133. It shall be seen from my words—if you choose to see it—that your Northern line of kings is not a line of full-kings. The whole of Eire is not meant, seeing the King of Caiseal is part of Eire.
134. Another proof, whence you may learn about them, is that what authors, annals and history write, in naming the kings, is "King of Teamhair."
135. Many strong arguments shall be stated by me, though it may displease you, to show that "king" is applied by you to the line on the strength of only a part of Eire.

136. Ní luðaroe áirne ar Conn · tpioða bliaðan ar an bponn
 oá tcruan na mbliaðan nár lam · buain don poinn do bui
 as Eoðan.
137. Copmac ceatpáda bliaðan · áirne ar póo Éireann iat-ðlan
 ní luðaroe áirne poim · ðan umla aige ó fíadár.
138. Már as tpiall píge Munneac · mar veir rein-leabap
 cumneac
 do tuit Cairbre i gcat ðabpa · níopb é an pí ðan freapabpa.
139. Rí o'apo-flataib fóla Cuinn · Flann oirdeapc mac Maoil-
 Seacluinn
 féac pe mac lonáin nár lam · imbeirt cluice ar Mað Áðair.
140. Rir na píogaið uaið do b'feairp · o'ocí ar mbeir-ne teann pe
 teann
 na píð pa táipe ionáio poim · ná po-maoið oirne a luðar.
141. Oá otiomnað neac ní nac leir · oá cloinn cpeáo a b'píð
 nó a b'peir
 oá oteagmáð mar tairla poim · realb agur ceapc na n-aðar.
142. Tuðar freagpa ar t-áiream píog · ní bui as leannmair air do
 píop
 léir do éac lé otiugteap poim · iomtúr do píog a luðar.
143. Féac nac oérdeanac oúinn péim · i neapc Vanba ná o'fuit
 Néill
 an trealb nac tugamair oóib · o'iarraio oppa pa éagóir.
144. Rið ba neapcmair na brian · noðar geinead píam ó miall
 ar tiomna Néill oá mbeir cion · níop le brian flaitcap
 ðaoirdeal.
145. Oo ðab Oonncáo oeað-mac brian · b'páigoe pe humla na
 oiaro
 laigean Míoe ip Muige b'peað · tap tiomna Néill do
 pinnead.
146. Oo éait rin oá bliaðain oéað · tap tiomna a noeada uaið
 o'éað
 mac mic brian Coirdealbac teann · i píge op feapairb
 Éireann.
147. Tuð Muirceapac tpiac Munneac · cloða Oilið go
 lumneac
 as bap otiomna níop ðab ceao · buan a píge pé píceao.
148. An Éirne aicnið ouit-pe · aic coimne Tarðð Caoluirge
 tiomna Néill noðar foroao · an lá tuð Tarðð tuapapao.
149. Aoepum-pe pið-pe a-pír · bioð go gcuipir opair rðir
 go paib ní pa mó ná leat · o'Éipinn as Eoðan Tarðleac.

¹ Not in IV. ² F. Muilleathan, K. II. 320. ³ Cf. infr. 182. ⁴ K. II. 354.

⁵ Not in A.U., Chr. Scot., etc. The story is given in the so-called "Book of Munster" (T.C.D., 1281; RIA. 23 E. 26). Flann in Tara boasted that he

136. You assign ¹ to Conn thirty years over the land, though for two-thirds of them he dared not meddle with Eoghan's share.
137. You put Cormac as reigning forty years on the fair soiled land of Eire, though he got no submission from Fiachaidh.²
138. If it was when seeking the kingship of the men of Mumha—as the old recording book ³ says—that Cairbre fell at Gabhar ⁴ he was no "king unchallenged."
139. See how great Flann, son of Maoilsheachluinn, a prince of Conn's race dared not on Magh Adhair ⁵ play the game of chess with Lonan's son.
140. As you see that we can match your best kings, do not boast over-much against us of your lesser ones.
141. Were one to bequeath a thing, not one's own, to one's children, what would be its use or profit if, as is the case of your kings, possession and right were against them (the children).
142. I have answered your account of the kings. I shall not pursue this matter for ever. Everyone, who understands what I have said, sees clearly the truth as to your kings.
143. Is it not—just think of it—too late now for our race, or for Niall's race, to claim—unjustly too—power over Banba, which we did not give them in their day.
144. Never were born of Niall's race kings stronger than Brian. Had there been any regard for Niall's testament,⁶ Brian would never have ruled the Gaedhil.
145. Donnchadh, Brian's goodly son, took,⁷ as his father before him, in token of submission the hostages of the Laighin, of Meath, of Magh Breagh. That was against Niall's testament.
146. Stout Toirdhealbach,⁸ son of Brian's son, spent twelve years ruling Eire, in spite of the testament of your departed kings.
147. Muircheartach, lord of the men of Mumha, brought the stones of Oileach to Luimneach,⁹ asking no leave of your "testament." Long was his reign, the length of twenty years.¹⁰
148. You know of the Eirne, Tadhg Caoluige's meeting place. Niall's testament was not observed the day that Tadhg gave his stipend.¹¹
149. I repeat it again—though it may fatigue you—that more than half of Eire was in possession of splendid Eoghan.

could play chess in every cantred in Eire. Flann McLonain dared him to do so on Magh Adhair. The king marches thither, and is about to play with Flann McLonain when the Dal gCais attack the royal army and force it to retreat. ⁶ IV. 47-8. ⁷ A.U. 1026. ⁸ K. III. 294. ⁹ 4 M. 1101. ¹⁰ K. III. 297. ¹¹ *i.e.*, to Brian O'Neill, cf. VII. 255, where the northern version is given. 4 M. 1258; A.U. 1258.

150. Créad nár áirinnir tríócáir céad · fuil do cupéadai im leit-re
briéas
mar táir rítríobta ó pé na rean · munar lór áiréam cúigead.
151. Meartar na hoct tríócáir déas · atá i Míre go líon réad
sar go bfuil a oiréad roin · dar doaduib uaid do Connaéaduib.
152. An cúigead rin cloinne hír · cúipe mar éaróbre i nbar doir
a doctad do bpeit sille · ní don élar déct dá foirinn.
153. Maic fuairréad filiré banba · aré féoir leo do labra
re cloinn ír read zác cinead · níor cúmaoin nár cúitigead.
154. San cúigead éaró ir ead éis · cúis tríócáir déas ar fíeró
áirinnéar a oiréad roin · ann zác cúigead don Mumain.
155. Ar éirí Eogán Míor na réad · do péir áirinn tríócáir céad
beas nac fuil do bair tar leat · már bpeir do cúigead
Laisnéad.
156. Ranna do fíomad bar bpeir · rada ón adbar zan buain rir
áiréam do min-leití Cuinn · do déanam mar leit coméruim.
157. Na ranna ráiré roime · ranna iad do péir toile
níor sarreád díob rómad riam · mar ainm ceirt-leat nó
ceirt-érian.
158. Rann fil Neméad díongna¹⁰ a ráó · trí deicnéadair líon a ríóis
zan for ó ionad o'ionad · zan ainm re háiréad.
159. An ríocet do b'fearr iad Neméad · do rann éirinn fa
deiréad
ór fárrad naoi ríis don doiré · ar a rann ir ead fanaim.
160. Rann toile do ríonrad rin · dá mac Eibric mic Eibir
rann com-érom ní harreá d'fíor · roir róiréar ir rínnrear.
161. Ór é Mois Nuadad fuair comá · ní leat fáraic déct leat
Moisá
ainm na leití ar mó ná leat · bí as tréan-Eogán Taróleat.
162. Mar do éadair tréan Eogán · do fáraic éis leir na deorad
o'fionmáil o'fíada Capan can · zác treipe dár zád
Tuathal.
163. Ir follur nac dearnar trom · réad mar deire péin ar Conn
a amur ar maroin móic · ir Eogán ar a leabaró.

¹ C. included Thomond, etc., till middle of 3rd cent. ² IV. 51. ³ i.e., not as in our taking of Thomond. ⁴ Cf. XXVIII. ⁵ K. I. 119. ⁶ K. I. 122. ⁷ i.e., Munster (70 cantreds) + Leinster (31) are almost one and a half times as big as Connaught (30) + Ulster (35) + Meath (18). ⁸ IV. 52. ⁹ K. I. 106.
¹⁰ Cf. "díongna nac dearna mé túr mo móla riam roime," A. Ó Dálaigh, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 278, v. 14; "ní o. a nool tar cuinne," T. McÓaire, RIA. 23 A. 30, p. 87, v. 3; ní fear daob ní díongan (-na ?) mib," P. Ón Cainte, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 103, v. 2; Laws Gloss.; Contrib. sub. 'diongnatach.'
¹¹ K. I. 174. ¹² Cearma and Sobhairce. ¹³ K. gives 23, XVIII. gives 25. The set of nine Irian kings ruling almost uninterruptedly are here referred to.
¹⁴ Niall said (II. 24) that Fraoch (son of King of Spain) was the cause of Mogh's getting Leath Mogha. O'Clery adopted this version, IV. 56. Cf. B. of Magh Léana. ¹⁵ They helped Tuathal. K. II. 243. ¹⁶ IV. 58.

150. If the counting of the provinces does not satisfy you, why did you not—before accusing me of falsehood—count the cantreds, as they are written since the days of the ancients?
151. Let the eighteen cantreds in many-treasured Midhe be considered. On our side there is almost that amount of the Connachta¹ taken from you.
152. As for Clann Ir's province, which you claim as a proud possession in your part of the land,² the pledges given by it (to C. Neill) were not part of its land, but only some of its people (as hostages).³
153. Banba's poets did well to invent all they could in praise of Ir's race beyond others. It was a favour not left unrequited.⁴
154. In the Northern Province there are thirty-five cantreds.⁵ That much is counted in each of the Provinces of Mumha.⁶
155. In the share of great Eoghan of the treasures there is, reckoning by cantreds, almost a superiority of half (over the rest of Eire),⁷ if one adds the Province of the Laighin to it.
156. The divisions (you quote) to prove your theory are far from the mark, and have nothing to do with the point, namely to make out Conn's small half to be an equal half.
157. The divisions you mention before that one (between Conn and Mogh)⁸ were arbitrary ones. No one before you ever called them "equal half" or "equal third."
158. Strange¹⁰ of you to mention the division made by Neimheadh's race.⁹ Thirty was the number of their host.¹¹ They ceased not going from place to place, and waited not to settle on the land.
159. The division on which I am dwelling (as being an arbitrary one) is that made by the strongest race¹² which after Neimheadh finally divided Eire, and whence sprang nine kings.¹³
160. The two sons¹² of Eibrioc, Eibhear's son, made an arbitrary division. No one could expect a division between younger and elder to be equal.
161. As it was Mogh who exacted his terms, "Mogh's Half," not "Fraoch's Half"¹⁴ is the name of the Half—really more than a half—which was held by Eoghan.
162. As you ascribed Eoghan's power to Fraoch who welcomed him when exiled, you had better ascribe to Fionnmhall or to Fiacha Casan¹⁵ the dominion got by Tuathal? (K).
163. Clearly I did not slander Conn. See, you yourself mention¹⁶ his morning-attack on Eoghan while in bed.

164. Dá gcuirtear fósna cata . uair reampa i gceann na flata
pollur lé n-dearna ar a fuan . nac biað a éas mé iomluad.
165. Ní hiongna amú go dána . réana a gníomh ar luð lása
do réantaí ar féin san cat . tuitim gur trí nís Ultae.
166. Ní ar laighnib aet ar muman . do iarrí Cormac a cumail
do bñis gur le luð do tuit . Arct doim-peap aetair Cormaic.
167. munab é luð do marb Arct . creao fáir iarrí Cormac a mac
ne huét cata Cionna ar luð . ceann níos i n-íoc a aetair.
168. Níor éur luð fá tpean i otreap . ir muin gaoi Cormaic
mé éneap
'r níor éur Cormac go gcuimne . bair Arct i leit liogairne.
169. Mar rin nac féoir a éur . marbað Arct doim-fir tar luð
muna bfuil teirp ar fearr lat . ioná luð asur Cormac.
170. Na heactrainn eugrao leo a-nall . an dá luðar nár tpeit
bann
o'irpeamhuin don oir tar muir . tansaoar ar a noútais.
171. Saob an bpeat clú gníomh a fluaí . do buain don flait
beirap buar
'r nac le a don-láim féin do gab . Alexandér an domhan.
172. Dámað ar don-láim do biað . marom cata nó gabáil gíall
ní raibé i mucponne ann roin . láim ba meab⁷ do láim luðar.
173. Ní rgníobaro bar n-eolais féin . do ríol eirpeamóin go léir
teirp luigheac mar labrao rin . a raiail do glún gairgí.
174. Mo náire a luðar a luad . mar eis tú tar Caoille an
Druad
éigin dain dá claoclóo roin . fírinne an rgeíl do leamhuin.
175. Cormac féin eus leir a tuar . traoidé o'iarrao beirte
buar
oár tpeáigrao uirge Munan . ceatpa ir daoine ar otiop-
muad.
176. Dealbair mar fearaí dá rpaipinn . caoirp gur nac gabaoir
airm
már maireac an iarrao neirp . uou nís onépac oirbeirp.
177. Cuirp fluaí Munneac a-muig . ríor ar an rean-traoi
Moí Ruit
dá bfuair o'fearann fearac uuit . ar éorí traoidéact
trauo Cormaic.

¹ IV. 59. ² K. II. 290. ³ K. II. 318. ⁴ K. II. 288. ⁵ IV. 61, 62.

⁶ L. Mac Con and L. Lamha got Britons to help them, K. II. 281. ⁷ Cf. "an
maeoon a meab roin"; "meab o'eargair na huairp-re," T. McOáire, RIA.
23 F. 16, p. 32, v. 8, 1. "Donnéac fear nac faeo a meab," Poem "eus uou
aire," T.C.D. 1281, v. 41. ⁸ L. Lamha. ⁹ Cf. XXV. 5, n. ¹⁰ IV. 64.
¹¹ K. II. 320. ¹² M. C. II. 214. ¹³ i.e., Caoille an Druadh, IV. 65, 3.
¹⁴ For gen. sg. in -aet, cf. "meirp ar méro ar oirp-m-guapact," T. McOáire,
RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 28, v. 2.

164. Had a battle-summons been sent an hour previously to the prince, it is clear, from what that prince did when he was awake, that his death would not have to be recorded.
165. It is not strange that his exploits should be denied to Lughaidh Lagha.¹ It was even denied to his face in the battle that the three kings of the Ulaidh fell at his hands.²
166. Not from the Laighin but from Mumha did Cormac demand the cumhal³ on account of Art Aoinfhear, Cormac's father, being killed by Lugh.
167. If it was not Lugh who slew Art why did Art's son, Cormac, ask from Lugh before the battle of Crionna a king's head as blood-price for his father? ⁴
168. Neither brave Lugh, even when Cormac's spear was at his skin, nor Cormac ever attributed, as far as we remember, Art's death to Lioghairne.⁵
169. Thus, you cannot attribute Art's death to anyone but Lugh,—unless you have some better testimony than Lugh and Cormac!
170. As for the foreigners, whom the two Lughaidhs ⁶ of stout deeds brought over with them, it was for the service of the pair that they came from their land over-seas.
171. It is a perverse thought to deny to the victorious prince the glory of his host's deeds, seeing that it was not with his own single hand that even Alexander conquered the world.
172. If the winning of a fight, or the taking of hostages, had depended on the hand of any one man, there was not at Muicroime any hand as heavy ⁷ as Lughaidh's.⁸
173. Even your own learned men, when they give testimony to Lughaidh, do not mention in all the race of Eireamhon any hero ⁹ like him.
174. I am ashamed to repeat what you say of Caoille an Druadh.¹⁰ I must to refute what you say, detail the truth of the story.
175. It was Cormac himself who brought from the North,¹¹ to conquer by means of them, druids at whose word Mumha's waters ebbed away, and cattle and men were parched.
176. As a resource for their fight, the druids form fire-balls,¹² against which arms availed not,—if that be, for your honourable noble king, a creditable means of getting power!
177. The host of Mumha then send for the old wizard Moghruith. You know of the land ¹³ he got for checking the wizardry ¹⁴ of Cormac's druids.

178. Coirgair Moḡ Ruic ceirto na n-ruaḡ • 'r ar a fion to ḡlac a
luac¹
fiaḡa Mumneac do claoi a neart • nioir claoi Moḡ Ruic
aḡt o'raoideacḡt.
179. Ann nḡac ionaḡ tḡar ip tḡaio • i bfuil rḡrḡoḡḡa roair an
t'rluairḡ
ar a n-abram an-oire • tḡḡbaim i mar fiaḡnaire.
180. ḡion ḡur maoidḡar bair Cairbre • lem fairḡoib aḡail fairḡe
do bḡar pann dā bḡarbaḡ roin • ó uḡḡar do'ra eairḡaio.
181. An pann-ra a bḡar im bḡaḡaio • muna bfuil leat to
meabair
do ḡeabḡa ré léirḡam leam • i ḡcuid to'ar-leabhair éireann.
182. Aḡ t'rial rḡḡe Mumneac mar • ba foirneart an flaitḡammar
le Moḡ Corb mac Cair éreacair • do bḡar Cairbre lreacair.
183. Do ḡeallair ḡan maoidḡam éacḡt • an dā o'rong rin ḡo lion
ḡereacḡt
ḡoin Moḡa Corb érice Mir • ip tar ḡeallat do maoidir.
184. Comeollat mo ḡeallat réin • ḡan maoidḡam éacḡt ar to
fréim
ó naḡ é a noḡanam do b'fearr • mar onḡir do éric éireann.
185. Fearr mar molaḡ dōib a-paon • ná maoidḡam éacḡt ar ḡac
taoḡ
ḡac ní ar a bfuirḡḡar a bfuir • fír-breacra roir-ḡníoim ruamnear.
186. Cumnir réin ar léirḡat lat • an breatuir cia fil uarḡ
tabair rúil tarḡ ar ḡac taoib • aḡic naḡ claoi do éatḡoir.
187. Déanta duit dāla lléirḡe • it aḡaio ó táir t'reirḡe
réacra réin an móir ré mear • cōir it aḡaio doir oirḡar.
188. Ar ḡraḡ o'ruirḡe tḡar nó tḡaio • ar a noiom-buaio nó
ar a mbuaio
nár fáḡba rinne dāir n-éir • ní baḡ ain-bfuir ré fairnéir.

ÉISO.

¹ MSS. ór ar a fion ḡlac a luac. ² K. II. 354. In the "Book of Munster" (supra 138) a stanza is quoted apparently from do' Albanac, "Aḡ t'rial rḡḡe Mumneac mar • foirnéan a flaitḡammar : le moḡ Corb

178. Moghruith baffled the druids' arts, and got the reward for that.¹
 Fiacha of Mumha broke the strength of the Northerns.
 Moghruith only destroyed their wizardry.
179. I take the story of that hosting where it is found written everywhere North or South to witness to the truth of what I say.
180. Though I did not use Cairbre's death as one of my shafts,
 I will give you a verse to prove it from an ancient learned author.
181. You as well as I shall be able to read in some of the great books of Eire, if you do not know it by heart, this verse which I shall now quote.
182. "When attempting the dominion of the fair men of Mumha—an act of oppression was this sovereign deed—by Mogh Corb son of Cas the reaver was Cairbre Lifeachair slain."²
183. You promised³ not to mention the crimes of the two many-plundering races, yet against your promise⁴ you boasted of the slaying of Mogh Corb of Crioich Mis.⁵
184. I will keep my promise not to mention the crimes of your stock, since the commission of them was not what did most honour to the land of Eire.
185. Better praise for them both than the telling of their crimes is the telling of the true judgments the noble conduct and peacefulness of every king, of whom are told these things.
186. Reflect on what you have read. Do you realise who is above you? Examine the subject in every way. Take care lest your poet's chair be partial.
187. You must act as Neidhe,⁶ for you have against you three things—you can see whether they are important or not—right, antiquity, learning.
188. May we never, through love of either North or South, influenced by their defects or their excellences, leave after us anything untruthful to tell!

MAC CARI CLOTHAIG · DO CEAR CAIRBRE LIFEACHAIR."

³ IV. 4

⁴ IV. 66

⁵ C A. 191; Eriu III. 139, 4.

⁶ N. yielded up poet's chair to superior claims of Ferchertne, MC. ii. 315; Rev. Celt. xxvi. MSS. Mat. 383.

RO CUALA AR TAGRAIS A TAIÜS. LUŞAIÜ Ö CLÉIRIŞ, cci.

1. Ro cuala ar tagrair a Taiüs • a clóiröin ní cúir iomairis
acé an bpreas do cup ar gcúl • 'r san páirt arailé u'iomprú.
2. Do béar-ra aipe dúir-re • tar ceann Torra ran tpoir-re
le fíinne bpirtear cat • ran glaiú maó calma an ciontaé.
3. Ó nac fuilim teann re teann • anfas i bpor mipe leam
ní fearr óaoib mo dúl ba deap • im dān ip meara m'aighear.
4. Ní éirioib dúit déanaí trum • tar maşail ar élannaib
Cunn
'r şac a nvearnair orin baó déin • atám orpamaé ainn-réin
5. Ná bioib fearş ar leit Moşa • fá ngoin i n-aşaiú şona
dā raib bioib a n-aicbeap ort • tpe é'şala ² dōib do dūpaé.
6. Ní bia re forbtear nōana • 'r a lān aşam pé náda
bar n-eang-ra dā leantap leam • ní bia m'fuişle şo haic-
şearr.
7. Şibé ppeam ó bfuil do cúir • do beanar i şo bpir dūinn
ceannar éipeamóin nárb şann • ar éibear mar do deapbram.
8. Péac leat leabap na huirre • ip ann deapbócaó m'fuişle
ip an amrar i tóero rib • ar bpeit Amuirşin şlūin-şil.
9. Bpeit Amuirşin ón uair rin • atā i nēirinn şā n-uairlib
do beap porş dā deapbaó deit • şo bfuil na rein-bpeit
oirōreic.
10. Do şéaba an porş-ra maó ail • i noliştib píoş Inre fáil
eagna le heaşlair a-oir • aşur feabta la flaitib.
11. Maó é an t-ōş bur forbte şníom • toştar é ran fuirō
píoş
şibé şā mbi an eagna lair • ip é toştar ran eaşlair.
12. Ná habair şupab rinnirir • do toştaoi i nēirinn innriş
minic do cūaiú ōş tar pean • i nolişeaó maicne mileaó.
13. Mōrōar peanēar ar şac taoib • nac faştar i porş ná i laoir
ar laoir péin ní faştar daé • şan leabap şlan dā cumtaé.
14. A noubarc re nēibear pionn • mār bpreas mar a-oeire piom
do şaoil rinne şā náda • şupb fíor leabap şabāla.
15. Don leabap rin cpeirō cāc • do bpreaşnuis tú şibé fáé
i n-ionşnaó ní cupta dūinn • cuptar şaoib-clall ra
rşpoptúir.

¹ V. 140.

² Cf. şan şala. 4 M. 1493.

³ MSS. porbar, cf. XX. 4

⁴ V. 12.

⁵ Laws, vol. IV., p. 372.

⁶ V. 26.

[Answer to V.]

1. I have listened to your argument, Tadhg. The hearing of it does not urge me to quarrel, but to refute your falsehood without perverting the other side (yours).
2. On behalf of Torna in the dispute I will face you. By truth is the battle won, even if the erring party be brave in strife.
3. Since I am not your match (?) ¹ I will remain here. I am sorry to do so. But it would not be good for you if I went South, for my fighting power is not so good in poetry (as in arms).
4. I will not listen to your harsh unfair words against Conn's race. As regards your conduct to me, I still maintain my respectful attitude towards you.
5. Let not Leath Mogha be angry at being wounded in return for her blows. If she be, let her reproach fall on you for arousing their old enmity.²
6. I shall not aim at the perfection ³ of poetic rule as I have very much to say. If I follow your tracks my arguments will not be short.
7. I have cut away, I know, whatever be the source of your case, for I have shown the supremacy of strong Eireamhon over Eibhear.
8. Look at the Book of the Dun Cow. In it I will prove my judgment, and show the mistake you make as to the judgment of white-kneed Aimhirgin.⁴
9. I will give you a *ros*g to show that an established famous judgment is the judgment of Aimhirgin, which is observed in Eire since then by her nobles.
10. You shall find if you wish this *ros*g in the book of the Laws of Inis Fail. "Knowledge," it says, "for the church, and excellence of character for princes."⁵
11. If it be the younger who is perfect in deeds he is chosen for the throne, the man who has learning is chosen for the church.
12. Say not that elders were always chosen in insular Eire.⁶ Often did the younger take precedence of the elder in the law of Mile's race.
13. Much of our ancient history everywhere is not contained in *ros*g or poem, and even a poem is not convincing unless it has an exact book to support it.
14. If my words about Eibhear Fionn be false, as you tell me, I thought that at least the Book of Invasion was truthful when saying those words.
15. Others believe that book, which you for some reason reject. That however is not strange, for foolish senses are read even into Scripture.

16. Cperorò tû do na leabhairib . maò ní taitneap léo meannam
már faible ip milip a mblar . maò ne ríol nÉibip beanap.
17. Níor ríorúad éin-leabhar fuam . ip an domhan toir ná tiar
sro é an ríoropúir do-ríara¹ . fa mian fip na hantola.
18. Sibé fuair ceannar ran Spáin . tar Éibear úfionn ré
óteacót dáb
ná cuir i n-iongnad i bfuir . a beir ór éac i sceannur.
19. An tIbernia a-veipe . o'faicrin i oteangtaib eile
ran scár rin éoróce ná cpero . i oteangtaib nac i an Scoitic.
20. San Scoitic má fuair éin-pear . saim Nibernia ó Éibear
feair an fínné² ná a bfuil lat . don dá beapla reacómozat.
21. Ip uirpe ar mó atá o'fíacáib . coméao reanóair fúinn
fíacáir
as rin fáct ar a noleasair . mo céatparó do cperoeamam.
22. Do léigir féin fíad fúinir . do saim don Éirinn fuil³
céao an fáct a noubrad fua . már bréas tionntúó Nibernia.
23. Munab as fuinead gréine . atá an tír dān haim Éipe
ná cpero duain reanóair ar rean . Canam Dunadap na
nSaoróeat.
24. Ní ran air toir éirpear sruan . ó nac luigean ran air tiar
fuinead gréine ó nac áil . ní cóir teacót tar a tursbáil.
25. Mar tá a fíor as scá éin-pear . Nibernia nac ó Éibear
sár beas dúinn dá deapbad ort . an rruet Niber a-dubart.
26. Míro an reanóar a díamra . 'r nac fuair ré acót real
bliadna
don leir ar luza o'lat bpeas . saim Nibernia ó Éibear.
27. Leat Éibip már fíor dúro-re . ip i ar fearr don dá éuro-re
dāmad fíor do b'fallra an bpeac . ná deapb ar acót so
haireac.
28. Do úil⁴ Éipeamón Teamra . tar Éibear so méao meanna
an leat ar fearr o'luir bpeas . dá scperoe do Cat Luigean.
29. Níor luza do mil do meap . an taob éuair-re ná an taob tear
pe linn panna an tá tionól . Éibear fionn ip Éipeamón.
30. Fearas an naom nemni⁵ ní bréas . fuas ar mbeaca i loc
bélreao
an bairr meala maorótear lib . ní faibe i n-amir Éibip.

¹ MSS dá p. cf. Stories fr. Táin (K). ² V. 37. ³ Cf. "nó ní ar fáite dom
fínné," C. ós ó huirinn, R.I.A. 23 D. 14, p. 5, v. 16; "deapbair air o'fúil ip
o'fínné," Som. mac an bairr, R.I.A. 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 67. ⁴ IV. 14, 17.
⁵ Cf. tiocpaó b'pó fuileac arm-fuad," C. McÓáipe, R.I.A. 23 G. 24, p. 30, v. 20;
"bean dail an ós-náir fuileac . as tósbáil clann scoiródeac," E. McCraic,
R.I.A. 23 M. 24, p. 27, v. 4. ⁶ By maolmhuire Oéna, given in Todd's
Nennius, p. 220. ⁷ IV. 16. ⁸ K. II. 104. ⁹ V. 27, 28. ¹⁰ n. Geashill. Cf.
Cath Tailten in LL. ¹¹ V. 33. ¹² Reference? In Laws. iv. 196 "ecmocht"
is glossed "in locha .i. locha bel set." Colm Cille is called "an naom
nemneac" in poem of Taob McÓáipe, R.I.A. 23 D. 5, p. 276, v. 23.

16. You believe the books if there be something in them that pleases your feelings. Even if they be fables, sweet is their taste if they refer to Eibhear's race.
17. No book was ever written in the world, East or West—even the Scriptures you pull to pieces ¹—to suit the whim of the perverse-minded man.
18. Think it not strange that the man who held sway in Spain over Eibhear, before they came here, should rule over all here.
19. As regards "Hibernia," which you say is to be found in other tongues, ² in such cases never trust any tongue but the Scotie.
20. If anyone ever derived in Scotie "Eibhear" from "Hibernia" it would be better evidence ³ than what you know of the seventy-two languages.
21. It is therefore the more its (the S. language) duty to preserve the tradition of Fiacha's Land (K). That is why it is right to believe my meaning of the word. ⁴
22. You have read the phrase "land of the sunset" applied to warlike Eire. ⁵ Why was that said of her if my translation of Hibernia be wrong?
23. If it is not at the sunset that lies the land called Eire, believe not the historical poem of the ancients "Let us sing the origin of the Gaoidhil." ⁶
24. As, according to you, the sun does not set in the West, it does not rise in the East. As then you don't like "setting of sun" you should not speak of its rising either.
25. As everyone knows that "Hibernia" does not come from "Eibhear" I think that the river Hiber, which I mentioned, ⁷ is proof enough of it for you.
26. Your idea that Hibernia is named after Eibhear is the worse for its being unintelligible, seeing that he only had a year's rule over the lesser half of the Land of the Breagha. ⁸
27. According to you Eibhear's Half is the better of the two. ⁹ If so, Aimhirgin's judgment would have been false. Be cautious in arguing from that (assumption of yours).
28. Eireamhon of Teamhair, and not great-hearted Eibhear, had the right to the better half of the Isle of the Breagha, if you believe the Battle of Laighen. ¹⁰
29. Not inferior in honey and fruit ¹¹ was the North to the South on the day of the sharing between the two hosts, Eibhear and Eireamhon.
30. It was the anger of the angry saint—it is no lie—that produced our bees at Loch Belsead. ¹² The plenty of honey, which you boast of, existed not in Eibhear's day.

31. Nà bí réo éatpaéaib úúinn • ní fuil ionnta aet oil i n-úir²
do cúimne ar gábháitar n-shall • roéar d'Éibear ní déanann.
32. Má tá lúb enuapac cumra • do éaoib roéair bar lúb-short
ní cóir teacé tar cóill mar rin • nac raibe i n-amríp
Éibir.
33. Do éeil tú inbeara an éirg • do buí ar cuit Éireamóin féil
fašam a n-aicgin⁴ ašaib • pompa i bfuir dá bfuapadair.
34. Sein-buacáir leam na n-ašaró • ón airé tuaró eis an éabair
na hušoir do gáanad trom • ar an airé tuaró dá labram.
35. Cuit dom deapbad dá córnaim • do gáabta i gCat Ceall
Ornad
bail nar tuit le mac Earca • ní Cairil 'r a cúiteacéa.
36. Már i leat Éibir do bfeair • créao eis d'Éireamón gan
feall
nac i do fealbuis fa deoró • iar n-aé-joinn Éireann dá
aindeoin.
37. Do raó cóigeao do mac Ír • iar marbad Éibir pán tír
i n-ainm dá cúigeao do bir • an illuina do éloinn Éibir.
38. d'Éibear fionn ní deapna tír • bar nšreapacé oirinn go
rlioct Ír
rinn ó céile ní cúirpe • d'aoib-pe d'fašáil fuapuiséte.
39. Šac raimn dá bfuairpeao rlioct Ír • dár otoi péin do
beapao dinn
ní hamlaró rin éarla an leat • do bí uaib-pe aš rlioct
luigdeac.
40. Ríge Mumhan šac pe bpeacé • do buí aš Dáirine tré neapc
šur šlac Oilill Ólum éiar • luša mar dála ó Maicniad.
41. Ilí mó ná an leat eile ví • eapuaib-pe ir Éapna do bí
créao i an joinn i raibe • riapraig oot Čat Mucromé.
42. An leat do bí aš Éibear fionn • már leat comérom ní léir liom
ar do leit-ršéal má tá dat • ní féao ar noútaig d'folac.¹³
43. Roinn cloinne Deala mic Lóig • már innte cúiréi bar noúig
níoró fíú¹⁶ a n-eolur ar an bponn • joinn na gcuigao i
gcomérom.

¹ V. 105. ² For "oil(e) i n-úir," cf. 3 Sh. also "cionnur rin ir goipe ar
nšaoil • goin an taoib na hoile i n-úir," A. Ó Dálaig, R.I.A. 23 G. 23, p. 279,
v. 5; "oršeoláró a époré na éleib • éairbeaparó an oile i n-úir," id., p. 236,
v. 9; "eapbaró goin an šille šaoir • eapbaró linne aoil i n-úir," Ó Maoléadairín,
R.I.A. 23 F. 16, p. 152, v. 34. ³ V. 33. ⁴ Cf. also "aicšeall," "cúir orépa
éoiréce umao éeann • nac puišéce éoiréce an t-aicšeall," T. McDáirpe, R.I.A.
23 F. 16, p. 185, v. 10. ⁵ V. 34. ⁶ Cf. poem "atuaró iaréar cabair éaig,"
MSS. Mat. 625. Ón airé., O'C. Donn's bk., p. 144. ⁷ AU. 490, 4 M. 489.
⁸ K II. 108. ⁹ L. mac Ith, K. II. 277. ¹⁰ He married Sadhb, widow of
Maicniadh and mother of Mac Con. A dispute between Eoghan, son of
Oilill, and Mac Con, his stepson, led to the expulsion of Mac Con. ¹¹ K. II.

31. Talk not to us of your forts.¹ They are only graves.² Your mention of the invasion of the Gaill is no service to Eibhear's cause.
32. If you have a fragrant gathering from the goodness of your gardens,³ you should not speak of such trees which existed not in Eibhear's day.
33. You omitted to mention the fishy estuaries in the portion of generous Eireamhon. Let us hear of something in your country like ⁴ what the Northerns found waiting for them here.
34. I have an old proverb against them,⁵ viz., "From the North comes help," ⁶ if we are to be told of the writers who would speak harshly of the North.
35. Some of the proofs of what I assert you shall find in the "Battle of Ceall Osnadh," ⁷ where Caiseal's king and troops fell at the hand of Erc's son.
36. If Eibhear's Half was the better, what caused guileless Eireamhon not to take it finally, when Eire was divided a second time spite of Eibhear?
37. He gave a province to Ir's son, after slaying Eibhear fighting for the land, and he gives Mumha to Eibhear's race, calling it two provinces.⁸
38. Your egging us on to attack Ir's race has not shown the land to be Eibhear's. You shall not separate us (cl. Eir. and cl. Ir) so as to get gentler treatment for yourself.
39. Every share which Ir's race got, they got it from us with our free consent. It was not so with the share which Lughaidh's ⁹ race held, getting it from you.
40. The rule of Mumha was in turn with the Dairine (and Derg-thine) by right of force, until Oilill Olum ¹⁰ in the west got Lughaidh (Mac Con) as a fosterling from Maicniadh.
41. Only the other half of Mumha was shared between you and the Earna.¹¹ As to the way it was shared see your "Battle of Mucroimhe." ¹²
42. I do not see that Eibhear Fionn's half was an equal half. Even if your story is at all probable, it does not depreciate ¹³ the greatness of our country.¹⁴
43. As to the division made by the sons of Deala Mac Loigh ¹⁵—if you take your stand on that—their knowledge of the land was not fit ¹⁶ to divide the provinces evenly.

231; Silv. Gad. ¹² in LL. Silv. Gad., &c. ¹³ Cf. use of *ceitim*. *folaišim*, I hide, do away with. Cf. *σο φαλαις γὰρ ἀνημαέτ*, poem "*βημαίρια κοζαρό* *γον ἐὰν λαίσηεσθ*," by Σερέφιν μόν, l. 32. ¹⁴ V. 155. ¹⁵ K. I. 107
¹⁶ *φιύ*=fit, able to, cf. VI. 119; XVIII. 22; "*ἵρ φιύ ἀν τ-οῦταρ ποῖα ἰμ*
όιον," Δ. Ὁ Ὑάλαις, R.I.A. 23 G. 23, p. 294, v. 13.

44. Roinn aic-gearr do péir toile • do rónrad rin pé poile
roinn ríor san éombáir maíne • do roinn Cearmna ir
Sobairce.
45. Roinn toile ní hí ar gnátae • roir óir mór óir brátae
fa roinn críche ir gnáitee tol • roir cúigeaí nó ceatruaí.
46. Do dearbhad ar roinn toile • do deánam dóib pé poile
gac porc i dtigheir i dtír • do anrad ann san eirriod.
47. Máir roinn ceart ar doí n-anna • tugrad fíir bolg ar
Danba
ir ceart don ríograd do gab • an Mumha mar dá cúigeaí.
48. Ceirte eir do maí d'éirinn • iarrma fear mbolg ir
Éilim
éin-fear díob fa ní Mumhan • i ríocht suab i an ceatruaí.
49. Éin-rí amáin mar ar eubair • ó roin i le ar an Mumhan
ní roinn ceart do cúis tíre • 'r a do díob i n-éin-ríge.
50. An cúigeaí raor áirne lib • ní tré ceann tarla aet mar rin
d'éir bar n-dá cúigeaí do mear • san bairr ionnta aet ar
áirnear.
51. Na raoríre cúigí ná creir • muna bfuil dá dearbhad
úero
aet mar ceann dro-máca móir • ní Cairil go bfuair
onóir.
52. Cádur aige ní raibe • go bfuair pádrais an baile
ní do ríe Cairil mar rin • tugad comairce Cairil.
53. Níorb é rin ríog-porc Mumhaeac • go dtáinig Corc mac
Luigdeac
cia an ríog-porc oile tré ceann • do bí raor ar ríe
Éireann.
54. Atá i gceart gac ríog go péil • rann eile ar a dtuise péin
gac onóir a deirteí a-noir • nac é fuair aet an easlaí.
55. Ní féirir a n-abra rinn • nac bréas fa leir éibir fínn
leat Míosa Nuadac ó Conn • má dearbhad a beir comérom.
56. Conall Cuaéna dearbham d'uir • do rann Éirinn i n-dá eir
nac raibe i gcomérom do Conn • a Taróg ná cuir-re ar
Conall.
57. Gá líon tríoéa i n-Éirinn áin • ní molta an roinn d'Inir
ráil
mar duabair anro tar m'éir • san leabair glan dá fairnéir.

¹ K. II. 125. ² V. 160. ³ e.g., the five sons of Deala. ⁴ M. 56.
⁵ K. II. 238; 4 M. 10, 56. ⁶ i.e., "The division of Eire was into four parts
as I have shown (48), Mumha being one." ⁷ V. 68. ⁸ V. 132. ⁹ Tadhg
had not used this argument explicitly, but had appealed to the Book of
Rights, in which Caiseal is stated to be metropolis of Patrick. ¹⁰ Cf. v.
132. ¹¹ Magh Leana, p. 69. Conall was Conn's counsellor. ¹² Supra, 13.

44. A summary arbitrary division they made with each other. A lasting division without partiality to any race was the one which Cearmna and Sobhairce made.¹
45. An arbitrary division is not usual between a pair if they be relations.² In dividing land arbitrariness is commoner between five or four men.³
46. A proof of an arbitrary division being made by them is, that wherever they landed they remained and quarrelled not.
47. If it be an equal division—strictly speaking—which the Fir Bolg made of Eire, few of their kings got Mumha as two provinces.⁴
48. The remnants of the Fir Bolg and Eilim⁵ made four parts of Eire. One of them was King of Mumha, so therefore Mumha is only a fourth.
49. One king alone, as is right, from that on has reigned in Mumha. Your five districts are not a proper division, seeing that two of them were under one rule.⁶
50. As to the independent province you mention,⁷ it was thus, and not through its strength, that that came about, as we see when we consider that your two provinces have no other point of superiority except what I mentioned (their being two).
51. Do not believe in the provincial liberties,⁸ if you have no other proof of them than that Caiseal's king was honoured as superior to Ardmhacha.⁹
52. Caiseal got no honour till Pádraig got the place. Thus not to the king of Caiseal (but to the Church) was given the right of sanctuary (?) given to Caiseal.
53. Caiseal was not the palace of the Muimhnigh till Corc Mac Luigheach¹⁰ came. Was there any other palace which, owing to its strength, was independent of Eire's king?
54. There is in the "Rights of the Kings" a rann whence you will see that all the honour you mention was given not to the king but to the Church.¹⁰
55. Your statement about Eibhear's "Half" must be wrong, if Leath Mogha be proved by Conn himself to be equal to Leath Cuinn.
56. I assert that Connall of Cruachain divided Eire in two. O Tadhg! do not accuse Connall of dividing the land unfairly to Conn.¹¹
57. How many cantreds in noble Eire? No division of Inis Fail is to be approved without, as I said, a clear book recording it.¹²

58. Ó nac tizmito pé céile . i sean-poinn dá bfuair éire
anam ar poinn Sall a-nor . máir lór téada dá tomair.
59. Átáir péir oile a n-urdaíl . do bpeit¹ na laoc ó lonntuinn
lion condae bar nua éoisead . áirimio i n-ar n-aon-éoisead.
60. Dá péir rin ní mó ná leat . fuig éogan ó Conn na fcead
sibé duine a-veir go fuig . áirnead tignite a n-eaprcor.
61. Do fhuir oireadair máir fearr . a mlic Dáire ir iongnad leam
partolón iar bfuir a rgeal . o'annain i nliur Saiméar.
62. Arto-ní éireann an Daḡda . ar mbreit rogan don Banba
ir clann Cearmada fa reat . o'annain ar-don i nOilead.
63. Sā dár⁵ dō 'r ní hiaḡ a-māin . aet a tēārraib lniur fáil
do b'i a roga beir i bfuir . loig a n-aitighe dearrbar.
64. Cia doo porcaib áille tiar . nar fuir ní éireann go brian
ór iat na háite do b'fearr . do tōḡrao ríōḡrao éireann.
65. Ní maorite ar porcaib Munneac . Corcao porclairge
luimneac.
- puir nuairde do rónrao Sall . ní beanann riad dár sean-
páinn.
66. Tioḡlaicte Dé dár bflaitib . a fceur ar fceul ná braitib
dā meartā a fceur ní éireo rinn . nac mór a rocar o'Éirinn.
67. Tré fíor-flata fearac dāoib . tiz mar veir Morann mac
Maoin
- iaris i n-inbear ón aicbe . ir i tēāḡaib torcairte.⁸
68. Mar rin ir tioḡlaicte ón Ríḡ . do veir loca ir aibne i tōir
'r do tēāairt éiriz ir torcar . meabbar⁹ ciunra calaḡ-porct.
69. Ná tēāoir abann ná loc . mór tarba a néamann 'r a fceol
'r ar dá maorim móire an rocar . tiz an tīr do tiorinoat.
70. Cuir mór dá rocar do cāc . mar coirḡcear leo a rḡir do ḡnāt
do taob aivoir an oirir . o'iomēur neit i n-arēraigib.
71. Cuir eile tiz dá tarba . na muilne aḡ meilt an arba
mór a bpeorim i n-aimir te . o'fionn-fuarao ceatara ir
daoine.
72. An tīr ar a molcar roin . bloḡ calman do buain don muiir
bāatā na tīre tiz dē . 'r ní bīo na tēāḡaib toirte.
73. Átáir daoine ir tīr rin péin . tairnḡear an muiir cūca i fcein
féac a tairḡ an mó an rocar . maorim na rruet ḡan tiorun-
oat.

¹ Cf. "do bpeit riadain crioḡ Cairil," T. McDáire, R.I.A. 23 L. 37, p. 206, v. 12. ² On Erne, K. I. 158. ³ K. I. 222. ⁴ Tuatha De Danaan, K. I. 222. ⁵ Sā with o(τ)Δ(i)m, o(τ)ú, o(τ)ár, o(τ)átar, o(τ)á mé, (followed by oo, oe, rir) "at what point am I in it" "in short" is a common phrase, cf. 3 Sh. voc. ⁶ V. 45. ⁷ O'R. A.D. 90. ⁸ Cf. "roga rin mór-toirte mear torcairte rit ir fuaimneac," T. McDáire, Trans. Gael. Soc., 1808, p. 20. ⁹ Meabam formed from Redupl. Pret. of maidim. ¹⁰ Cf. Eriu, III. 112. n. leg. abainn? ¹¹ V. 61.

58. As we agree not about any old division of Eire, let us dwell on that made by the Gaill if measuring-lines enable us to compute it.
59. According to the heroes from London, the two are equal. They count in our one province the number of counties which are in your two.
60. Therefore, not more than half did Eoghan get from plundering Conn. Let him who says he did, count the titles of the bishops.
61. If your palaces be the finer, O son of Daire, I think it strange that Partholon on hearing of them, remained in Saimear! ²
62. And that the high king the Daghdha ³ and Cearmaid's sons ⁴ in their turn should, on getting their choice of Banba, remain in Oileach!
63. Indeed, ⁵ not they alone, but all who got Inis Fail chose to remain here (in the North). The marks of their dwelling here prove it.
64. As Eire's kings chose the fairest places, which of your fair western places did any king inhabit before Brian?
65. You should not boast of those ports of the Muimhnigh, Corcach, Portlairge, Luimneach. They are new places founded by the Gaill and concern not our old division.
66. Think not to put aside ⁶ God's gifts to our princes. If you thought of doing so, we at least do not believe that their advantages were not great for Eire.
67. It is righteousness in rule, you know, which, as Moran mac Maoin ⁷ says, brings fish into the estuary at ebb-tide, and produce ⁸ on the shores.
68. Lakes and rivers bring gifts from God, and it is to bring fish and produce that the coast-edges are broken. ⁹
69. Find not fault with river ¹⁰ or lake. Great is the value of their pearls and stones, and by their springing forth is caused a mighty advantage, the drying of the earth.
70. A great deal of their benefit is the way in which men's fatigue is saved by them by travelling the country carrying things in vessels.
71. Another of their benefits is the mills grinding corn. Great is their service in hot weather for cooling of beasts and men.
72. As for the country, of which you mention as a good thing the taking of some of its land from the sea, ¹¹ the result is that the land is flooded, and there are no fruits on its shores.
73. There are men in your own land who bring the sea to them from afar. Think, O Tadhg, if the unceasing flow of the streams be not a greater boon!

74. Don ar-o-rísh pé linn tarla • áirinn leabair a tarba
 shac abann shac loe dar lins • fear a ainne ar éirinn.
75. Fada ó loruair an fuil ríosh • ní do Románach a ríol
 ir ar nac áirinnéar óó • bpeit éiríor i mbeitil lúda.
76. Oétauin Augur an rísh • do peac ne hloruair an tír
 ar Oétauin maoréar rin • bpeit éiríor pé linn i
 mbeitil.
77. A éairísh ir do éairísh tñúta • éirleat tura ar mac úna
 a éiríshéte ón Rísh do nín • mar a-éirísh áirne éirísh.
78. Már beag a mbpísh mar éirne • a éirleat Conn oréce a éirne
 a éiríshíal do buó linn lat • pé maoréar ar líosh
 líuáat.
79. Ir iongható már ionann rin • maoréar linne agur líb
 ó'éogán lílór coisill an bíó • 'r éiríshéte Dé dar n-áir-
 rísh.
80. Lílór coisill Conn a éirísh bíó • 'r ní raibe gorta na tír
 ó'éiríshíal gorta 'r é ar éirísh • do rísh a éirísh éiríshíal.
81. Lí bíó óá éiríshéat mar Conn • gorta i gorta éiríshíal don
 éirísh
 ne hainríshéat éirísh do gnat • méirísh ó'éogán a iongható.
82. Céat do ní fuil éirísh bíó • roéar áirísh-ne nac éirísh
 pé linn nac éirísh plásh • lílór éirísh náísh iongható.
83. Éanna ir Muineamón már bíó • báir don plásh éiríshéat na
 rísh
 an áirísh éiríshíal na éirísh • nac raibe plásh na
 éiríshéar.
84. Uairé a ríosh ar éirísh mbanba • ó'fuil éirísh ir é ar éirísh
 már lúsh plásh ir gorta • na pé a éirísh an éirísh-molta.
85. Ná habair muom guraísh ró • ir óá n-áirísh ní ra mó
 éiríshíal mac n-lúshíne guraísh már • ar éiríshíal trí céat
 bílúshíal.
86. Fuarar i ráirísh éiríshíal • go éiríshíal ó éiríshíal
 óá éiríshíal áiríshíal éiríshíal • léirísh éiríshíal éiríshíal.
87. Ir beag éiríshíal do éiríshíal • náirísh⁹ éiríshíal na trí éiríshíal
 éiríshíal i éiríshíal ar oile • do éiríshíal uairíshíal lúshíal.
88. Néat na n-áiríshíal níiríshíal • áiríshíal¹⁰ do éiríshíal éiríshíal
 éiríshíal tar éiríshíal óiríshíal ir-éiríshíal • éiríshíal an pé bíó do éiríshíal-
 éiríshíal.

¹ V. 51. ² Conn. ³ Anecd. II. ⁴ V. 64. ⁵ K. II. 142. ⁶ K. II. 130.
⁷ Cf. P. H. ⁸ Only 251 in K. ⁹ n-irrationally prefixed as often to
 a n- ar. ¹⁰ Cúis? The numbers of years would then be 286, and four of
 Eibhear's race would be included.

74. For the king, in whose time such things happened, the books record as his "benefits" every river and lake that sprang forth in his reign over Eire.
75. Far removed from Herod was the princely blood.¹ Not of the Romans was his race. Therefore Christ's birth in Bethlehem of Juda is not attributed to him.
76. Octavian Augustus was the prince who let the land to Herod. Christ's birth in Bethlehem in his reign is mentioned as a glory of Octavian.
77. It is from jealousy, Tadhg, that you deny to Una's son ² the gifts given him by God, as "Finghin's Vigil" ³ says.
78. If the things which Conn got on the night of his birth be of small value, as you say, you would be wildly desirous to have them to boast of for Mogh Nuadhat.
79. Strange would it be if what I boast of, and what you boast of, were the same, namely Eoghan's hoarding of the food,⁴ and God's gifts to our king.
80. Conn did not hoard the food, and there was no hunger in his land. To guard against famine what a king has to do is to be righteous.
81. There would have been no famine in Eoghan's land had he taken precautions as Conn. Famine usually results from unrighteousness. Bad for Eoghan is your mention of it.
82. What does Eibhear's race do with the "benefits"—no real ones—you mention? Were there not seen in their day plagues—another word you should not have used?
83. As Eanna⁵ and Muineamhon⁶ are of your stock these kings died of the plague. Do you still say, after hearing that, that there was no plague in their reign?
84. It was the fewness of the kings of Eibhear's blood over Banba which caused their being fewer plagues and famines in their time, my exaggerating friend!⁷
85. Do not tell me that it is an exaggeration—no, not even if I were to increase the number—when I say that the division of Iughoine's sons lasted in Eire three hundred years.
86. I have found in the sayings of sages that I have a right, if a definite number be available, to neglect an indefinite one.
87. Little less than three hundred years⁸ are those which⁹ even the thirteen of Iughoine's proud race who are counted reigning in succession, spent as kings.
88. No one arose against them, except four of Eibhear's race. They came in on them in violation of promise; but short was the time allowed them.

89. Ar ab a an éadair do éadé . i gceannur Teamha tar éadé
níor beanaó an roinn roimhe . dár mair do rliocht luóine.
90. Ré ar mó ná ar n-áireamh bliadan . do bádar do péir ríadan
curo don trliocht rin luaidéar linn . i dtreire ann nšac
airé o'Éirinn.
91. Críóc Connaéct a noúcéar féin . na leir ní cuiré mar céim
ir cóigeaó laigean uile . aca ó ainmhir luóine.
92. Do báó díob-pan na héarna . cummuis féin ríad a tóéarna
i gceannur Muhan i-muis . ir Dál b'riatac i nllitail.
93. Clann Deadaó go gcuar gceimeann . trear laoc-aime na
héireann
don trliocht éadna mar do élor . Teamhair éarna ir é a
noomhgar.
94. Mar rin nac iongnáó a ráó . šac réó dár déalhar im d'an
bail ar a roinn go raibe . tar éir cloinne luóine.
95. Ill rígm a lear a ríom . m'áireamh bliadan m'áireamh ríog
do deardáó ceirt mar ruar rinn . rleacá luóine ar
Éirinn.
96. Tugrao šaoróil mar tá ríom . realb éireann o'luóine móp
d'á éloinn tar éir a n-áar . dí do léigrao ruórácáó.
97. Ruar Tuacal ar tóeacé tar tuinn . an treilb éadna mar
do tuill
ní hiaó áitig Tuait do bir . an treilb dó-pan acé šaoróil.
98. Ar reilb Tuacail ná cuir brat . Corb Ólum níorb óige an
mac
ar ron nár áatuis fá ceann . mar nár leir realb na
héireann.
99. Iar ršmuor áiteac a héirinn . tug Tuacal dar mac férdlim
a d'úcéar féin d'á šac fear . dár mair do máicne Míleac.
100. Dar noóis ir dearmao tug ort . mar do ráirí-re 'r ní loct
nac íao šaoróil tug a tóol . re reilb éireann do Tuacal.
101. Ar šeallrao rliocht Éibir rínn . do comailreao i leir rinn
créao fá mbeimhir díomháó díob . ní móp do ríóura
o'foirbíriog.
102. Re linn fearšao ríog 'r a reacé . ó do áirbíreao a gceart
níor šab foóla acé éin-ríš díb . ir éošan móp na leir-
ríš.
103. Már oic an éairt-re ar banba . rašam leat a mac-ramla
ó taoi re tuba ar gcomháró . ir díom réó nár n-iomarbáó.

¹ i.e., he had only counted those before the group of Eberian and Irian kings. ² K. II. 230. desc. from Conaire Mor. ³ K. II. 237. ⁴ K. II. 220. ⁵ T. Luachra, Co. Kerry. ⁶ V. 102. ⁷ Cf. infra, 143; also "móp o'ole ruar dar brear ríuige . ríao ceann-ra a éríoc rean-luighe," T. McDáire, R.I.A. 23 C. 18, p. 66, v. 35. ⁸ K. II. 259. ⁹ V. 104. ¹⁰ From Tuathal to Brian. ¹¹ Criomthann, K. II. 368.

89. Except for these four coming unjustly into the sovereignty of Teamhair, never was the arrangement of Iughoine wrested from those who lived of Iughoine's race.
90. For longer than my computation¹ there were, according to witness, some of the race I speak of in power in every part of Eire.
91. That the land of the Connachta, and the whole province of the Laighin was theirs since Iughoine's day is not to be brought as a charge against them !
92. Of their race were the Earna ²—recall how long they ruled over Mumha—and also Dal bhFiatach ³ in Ulaidh.
93. Also Clann Deadhaidh,⁴ fierce in onset, one of the three warrior-bands of Eire, were of the same race, as is known. Teamhair Earna ⁵ is their dwelling.
94. Thus it was not strange to say all I have said in my poem, namely that fortune smiled on the patrimony of Iughoine's children after him.
95. I need not count my years or my kings to prove how we acquired the rights over Eire enjoyed by Iughoine's race.
96. The Gaedhil, as I said, gave possession of Eire to Iughoine. To his children after him they left the prescriptive right to it.
97. Tuathal on coming over the sea got, as he merited, the same title. Not the Aitheach Tuath but the Gaedhil gave the possession to him.
98. Do not suppress the acquisition of Tuathal. Corb Olum was not the younger boy,⁶ though he did not fight for Eire ⁷ because its ownership was not his.
99. After the exile of the Aitheach from Eire, Tuathal (whose son was Feilim) gave his own land back to every man who survived of Mile's race.⁸
100. I suppose it was forgetfulness, and not malice, that made you say ⁹ that it was not the Gaedhil who consented to Tuathal's holding Eire.
101. The race of fair Eibhear fulfilled in our regard their promises. Why should we be angry with them ? They were not unjustly ambitious.
102. When they (Tuathal's race) had re-won their rights (?) for sixty-seven reigns ¹⁰ Fodhla had only one king ¹¹ of your race besides Eoghan Mor a half-king.
103. If this title (of our race) be a poor one, let us see one of yours to match it. Since you will contest my assertions, let us be even in our contention.

- IO4. Iar d'tairbhirt a gceirt fa d'ó . do f'aoil niall nárb' ainbhior
d'ó
d'á ngoiread' an-f'laic' d'f'uil' Cúirc . ní mire a-d'eir mar
dubhairt.
- IO5. Már é ro eus opt-ra a ráb' . oic do párb'ir ne niall nárb'
nar leir an éire mar roin . le tiomna ar aic'ir Tuatail.
- IO6. Ó tá leat-ra do meabair . an pann-ra a-d'éar im d'easair
ná habair nac' raib'e bail . ar tiomna Héill naoi-ghallais'.
- IO7. Do pannra a m'ic iar rin . Inir airt ba haípra in² f'ir
ir d'óib' do beair a ngéill . céin biar³ na muillim g'rein-ghil.
- IO8. Munar leir i pé tiomna . créad' f'ár f'uluing' a bio'da
éire d'á g'aoil ir d'á f'luic' . pé céad bliad'an i n-oi'sreac't.
- IO9. Már móir leat ar ríogad' d'íob' . as rin d'uit amreair na ríog
créad' an leic'-r'géal do b'ire . uait ar ron na haírp'ire.
- II0. Ná tairis claoélob' m'áiríne ríog' . 'r d'á léiginn a n'ad'
d'cruan d'iom
lém ríoga gur ba t'reire . ná an ríol éib'ir áiríneir-pe.
- III. Rí's go b'rearab'ra ó tairge . do ráb' ne Conn ne Cairb'ire
ir ne Cormac na mbreac' b'fior . do d'á g'lor ir d'éanta
d'imb'ríog'.
- II2. Mí rí Conn do péir ríag'la . a-d'eir tura ac't reac't mbliad'na
már d'á ríge an pé nárb' laim . buain don roinn do b'í as
Eog'an.
- II3. Cia do d'áirí-rí ar Inir f'áil . naoi mbliad'na Eog'ain ra
Spáin
már é Conn ba rí cá r'ad' . rí a n'óib'eirt m'íoga l'luad'ad'.
- II4. Iar d'uitim Eog'ain i g'ac' . cia ba rí ó roin amac
ar g'ráb' t'eini's abair rínn . an reab' do m'air mac f'érd'lim.
- II5. Ar m'áiréam' ac'áirí f'ad'na . réac' an mó náirí reac't mbliad'na
máirí mó ní c'reo'te ó d'áin . nac' d'eairna r'ad' ná reac'rán.
- II6. Beit as ríor-cup' b'reas ro leic' . éigean d'úinn nó ar
n'deairb'eta ar cleic'
g'ib'e d'íb'-rin ar ura . d'úinne ní d'ál ur'ura.
- II7. Cormuill rin ir mar d'eire . nar cúir Conn f'ó'sra r'eime
gan leic'-r'géal asac' ac't roin . ran ac't ne marb'ad' Eog'ain.
- II8. Nac' maic' an f'ó'sra ca'ta . pé cup' i g'eann na f'la'ta
long'porit do g'abáil na g'ar . ir teac'ta Cúinn do c'roac'ad'.
- II9. Sgéal gan d'ac' cúire ar do c'riac' . níorb' f'íu f'la'ca f'eair-
d'á-l'iac'
Cormac ro g'abáil do cor . níorb' f'ir-b'reac' d'ó d'á n'deairnad'.

¹ III. 13; II. 10, 4.² in=mo. O.I. form of n. pl.³? MSS. beró.⁴ V. 136-138.⁵ Magh Léana, p. 36.⁶ K. II. 266.⁷ Conn.⁸ V. 163-164.⁹ Magh Léana, pp. 94, 108.¹⁰ F. Muilleathan, K. II. 273-¹¹ III. 27.

- 104 Since they (the Northerners) had twice won their rights Niall thought it would not be amiss of him to call Corc's race "usurpers." It was not I who used the word,
105. —if it be this that caused you to say ¹ of noble Niall—you had no right to say it—that Eire was not his to bequeath, as Tuathal had done.
106. As you know the verse I shall now quote, do not say that fortune was not granted to Niall's testament.
107. "His sons after him divided Art's Isle—wonderful were the heroes.² To them are given their hostages, as long as clouds are about the bright sun."³
108. If it was not his to dispose of, why did his foe let Eire be held as an inheritance by his stock and race for six hundred years?
109. If you think exaggerated the number of their kings, you can examine the length of the kings' reigns. What excuse can you give to explain away the time?
110. Try not to refute my enumeration of the kings. Even were I to leave out two-thirds of them, my kings would be more than (those of) Eibhear's race you mention.
111. As you call Conn, Cairbre and true-judging Cormac "kings with opposition"⁴ little account is to be taken of your word.
112. "Conn was lawfully king only for seven years" you say as "in his reign was included the time when he dared not meddle with Eoghan's portion."
113. Who was king of Inis Fail for the nine years when Eoghan was in Spain?⁵ If Conn, how long was it before the expulsion of Mogh Nuadhat?
114. Who was king—for the love of your honour tell us!—after Eoghan's fall in battle⁶ while the son of Feidhlim⁷ was alive?
115. There are witnesses to my account. See now whether there were more than seven years (in Conn's reign). If there were, one cannot believe your poem when it says it made no error through foolish partiality or any slip.
116. I must keep charging you with falsehood, or else leave my argument unstated. Whichever of these courses be the easier, neither is easy for me.
117. So too you say that Conn gave no warning before advancing.⁸ You have no other explanation for his killing of Eoghan in the fight.
118. Was it not sufficient warning to be sent to the prince, his pitching his camp near him (Eoghan), and the hanging of Conn's messengers?⁹
119. An improbable story you invent for your chief. Fiacha Fear-Da-Liach¹⁰ would not have been fit to put Cormac beneath the hanger,¹¹ and, had he done so, it would have been unjust.

120. Créad tuḡ u' fíada san níge . do buain dé nó poinn típe
dā mbeit Cormac i lámh leir . iar maróm fair mar do
maoróir.
121. Do rḡéal ar Cormac tré cār . re fíada ar oirdear a ráo
a huēt ṽruad dā n-iarrao neart . do b'fíu a uútear re
ṽraoideáct.
122. Sro lāg ṽraoideáct mar ṽearbaō . doimam é sion so
nṽearnaō
ir faḡaib fíadain oile . re maróm ṽroma-Damḡaire.
123. ṽrédas ar illoḡ Ruic do feadar . do cur ra rḡéal ro ar
ṽeadar
so nṽubairt fir ní ráo ceart . méaraō coirōce do ṽruideáct.
124. Sḡéal fuar ar a ṽrionntar ṽrédas . ní cóir a cṽerodeam so n-éas
'r san conḡnam éin leabair lair . ir mar rin atā t'ṽorbaír.
125. Máṽ as tṽuall níge Mumán . do tuic Cairbre na ḡcrao
raoa uaitē an áit nar tuic . i nḡabar áicle oṽorwic.
126. Seáct mbuaōna déas don curao . ór ériē ṽoṽla ir ór
mumam
ḡur an ḡcaē-ra ionar cáma . do b'é an ní san fṽearabṽra.
127. Ili tiocraō Moḡ Corb na dāil . 'r ní ḡeabao an cat do lámh
ḡur ceannuiḡ ón ṽféin teáct lair . oic do céao cṽiōc a
ṽcurair.
128. Curṽar an cat so nḡairḡe . níor lámh neac oisro¹⁰ Cairbre
áct an t-anḡlonn naṽar mín . Orḡar arnaō¹¹ mac Oirín.
129. Tuairḡnro na fir a céile . dā nḡlan-armuib so nḡeire
ráḡbaō Cairbre a níort ḡaile . Orḡar rinte i ḡcṽo-luige.
130. Tis Caoilte ir Oirín ran ár . ir Orḡar beo-maib na cām
ir do ráirdeao na nṽoir fir . naṽ raṽao ṽearbaō leiḡir.
131. Do ráir-dean ruí a ṽruarar ruam . do cṽeáct-ḡoin coir
asur tiar
ṽoileḡe leam rleas Cairbre í Cuinn . ioir m'malinn ir
m'árainn.
132. Do tuic Orḡar san cáirde . ir do ceap ra deorō Cairbre
iar ḡcomrac Orḡuir ṽorṽail . le Semeon ṽ'ṽoṽartaib.
133. Ar féin fínn ir maorōte an ḡleo . ar ron Moḡa do teáct leo
rác a n-éácta maorōtear leat . a ḡceannaṽ mā do tuillreao.
134. ḡuin áirt níor cúirte ar m'ac Con . ḡé cā ro na leit dā cor
por m'udao ḡér bo cara . Luḡarō i ḡcaē Mucraíma.

¹ V. 177.² K. II. 378.³ M. was said to be a disciple of SimonMagus. I can find no reference to the above story. ⁴ ṽorbaír ṽroma

Dāmḡaire.

⁵ V. 182.⁶ Near Tara.⁷ Twenty-seven years in K. II.

355.

⁸ K. ii. 355.⁹ Clanna Morna.¹⁰ oisro acc. also as nom. "do¹¹ árnaṽ oisro donḡuir," f. ón cāince, R.I.A. 23 F. 16, p. 202, v. 29.¹² K. II. 354.¹³ Nephew of Oisín.¹⁴ Lughaidh Mac

Con, V. 165 ; K. II. 280.

120. Why did not Fiacha take the kingship or some land from him, had Cormac been in his power after conquering him as you boasted.¹
121. Your story told to disgrace Cormac should rather be told of Fiacha. If Fiacha sought power by means of druids, it would have been worthy of his turn for wizardry!
122. Though this story of wizardry is a poor proof of your point, I let it pass—though as a fact it is not true. Let us have some other evidence for the rout of Druim Damhghaire.²
123. I know that a lie about Moghruith is attributed in the tale to Peter, how Peter said to him—a wrong thing to say—“Your wizardry shall abide for ever.”³
124. An unlikely tale, of which the falsehood can be seen, should never be believed, especially when there is no book to support it. Such is your tale of the Siege.⁴
125. If it was when seeking the kingship of Mumha that, as you say,⁵ Cairbre of the heroes fell, far from Mumha is famous Gabhar Aichle⁶ where he fell!
126. Seventeen⁷ years the hero ruled Fodhla and Mumha till that battle⁸ where he was valiant. He was a king unchallenged.
127. Mogh Corb would not have dared to meet him, and would not risk the battle, till he paid the Fian⁹ to come with him. Evil for a hundred was the end of their hosting.
128. The battle is fought with heroism. None dared to slay¹⁰ Cairbre except the hero—no gentle one—fierce¹¹ Oscar, Oisín's son.
129. The men smite each other with bright keen arms. Cairbre in the strength of his bravery leaves Oscar stretched in death-swoon.
130. Caoilte and Oisín come upon the scene of slaughter when Oscar half dead was unconscious, and the pair said to him that he would not die for want of efforts to cure him.
131. He said to them “sorer than all the wounds I have got east and west is the spear of Cairbre son of Conn between my navel and my kidneys.”
132. Oscar died soon after, and Cairbre fell at last, after his fight with strong Oscar, at the hand of Semeon of the Fotharta.¹²
133. That victory is to be attributed to the fact that Fionn's Fian came with them (the Southernns) on account of Mogh Corb.¹³ You may boast, if you wish, of the reason why they did their great deeds, namely their being hired—if they deserved it!
134. Art's death is not to be assigned to Mac Con,¹⁴ though this verse is said of him “It was Lughaidh—though a friend—who slew him at Mucroimhe.”

135. Créao ar éiall do ro mór fíor . Luð do mharbhad na ttrí ríog
bár na ngiolla consnam las . 1 gcaé Cmonna la Cormac.
136. Do bár Cairbre ir ionann oró . dá cormar rin ar Moð Corb
'r nac leir do rocair pa ngleoð . aét lé b'rácair féin Semeon.
137. dá gcurtaoi na ríog-re ar gcúl . ní fuigti go fearad tón
dá tpeire do bi ar Vanba . ríog oile san b'fearabha.
138. Minic riam tar gáir-fmacé ríog . do b'p'ead le cáé a ríod
ní dé rin tré éeapc n-anna . goirtear rí go b'fearabha.
139. Gac rí rérb ionraða an t-ainm . fada ríod ó fuaip a gairm
ór aca do b'fearp a n-eol . ná cairg na filib d'aitceod.
140. Níor áirneap le claon rligead . ríog go b'fearabha ó
óligead
aét com-flaiteap ag o'ruing díob . le b'ráctrib nar tuill
eirriod.
141. Dá ngoircti ríog leam-ra díob . pe gabáil gíall pe cuairt ríog
iomda mar rin díob pe meap . dáir éoir an t-ainm náir
áirneap.
142. Muirceapac Domnall ó Néill . dá ríog fódla an b'raice féin
níor áirneap iao mar capla . a n'gairm ríog go b'fearabha.
143. Ar ron nac maorópe aét go min . Domnall ó Lochlainn mar ríog
do cuip ré caéa fá ceann . ag cornam Innre h'éreann.
144. Dá éat díob-ran r'raointeap . laip . 1 gCeann Coraó ar Dál
gCair
'r 1 Maig Adair san time . cat ar g'allaib Duib-linne.
145. Blad do díol na huinge d'ór . Ceann Coraó lumneac do dód
le Domnall do rinnead rin . mór díol 1 g'clocaib Oilig.
146. Do f'eadorad Muirceapac laip . na cloca do b'p'eit tar air
b'ráighe Muhan tug ir-teac . don cuairt ríog ruz go
lumneac.
147. Níor áirneap Toirdealbac mór . náir Ruairí do b'ronnad ór
níor f'adit mé gur mór tarba . áiream ríog go b'fearabha.
148. Duailteap airgead na ríog róinn . don dá ríog-re 1 gCluain
Mic Néir
r'griobair filib ar gac fear . go n'earnrao donac Tailtean.
149. Tug Toirdealbac cuairt ro trí . don Muhan go macé
Tráig Li
roir Mac gCaircaig do rann . ir clann Diarmuda an fearann.

¹ Vid. Var. Lect. consnam "an appearance," i.e., "exploit" or "consenn 1. teglamad nó tionol" (O'Dav.) "a crowd of weaklings." ² Point obscure. ³ V. 182. ⁴ M. O Lochlainn, K. III. 312. ⁵ K. III. 242. Given as full king in K.; A.U. G.G. 4 M. ⁶ d. 1120. ⁷ A.U. 1088; Flann. IV. 68. ⁸ Flann. IV. 66. ⁹ Reference? ¹⁰ V. 147. ¹¹ K. III. 310. ¹² K. III. 318. ¹³ K. II. 248. ¹⁴ 4 M. 1068 and K. III. 312 give a different division.

135. If that be true, what is the meaning of Lugh's killing the three kings, and of the servants' deaths—a poor exploit ¹—brought about by Cormac at Crionna.²
136. It is the same way with Cairbre's death being attributed to Mogh Corb ³ seeing that not by Mogh Corb but by his own relative Semeon was he slain.
137. If you object to these kings (as being opposed) you shall not, to my knowledge, find any other kings however powerful in Banba who were not opposed.
138. Often spite of a king's strictness his peace was disturbed by others. Such a man cannot strictly be called "opposed."
139. Every king, to whom the word is applied, has been so called long before your time. Do not try to refute the sages for they knew best.
140. I did not in perverse method count kings who were lawfully opposed; but some of them ruled jointly with kinsmen who deserved not to be quarrelled with.
141. Were kings to be named so from taking of hostages and making kingly visitations I omitted many to be so named.
142. Muirheartach ⁴ and Domhnall,⁵ Niall's grandson, are two of Fodhla's kings, you see, whom I counted not as they were styled "challenged kings."
143. Though you will not mention Domhnall O Lochlainn ⁶ as king except with much reservation he fought six battles defending Eire.
144. Two of those battles were won by him stoutly at Ceann Coradh ⁷ over the Dal gCais, and at Magh Adhair ⁸ over the Dublin Gaill.
145. Some little vengeance for the golden ingot ⁹ was the burning of Ceann Coradh and Luimneach! Domhnall did this if that be revenge for the stones of Oileach! ¹⁰
146. Muirheartach could have brought back the stones, but it was hostages of Mumha whom he brought back from his hosting to Luimneach.
147. I counted not great Toirdhealbhach ¹¹ nor Ruaidhri ¹² who distributed gold. I thought it useless to count kings with opposition.
148. Coins were struck for those two kings as for their predecessors at Cluain Mic Nois. Poets write of them both that they held the fair of Tailte.¹³
149. Toirdhealbhach made a visitation thrice into Mumha as far as Traigh Li, and divided the land between Mac Carthaigh and Clann Diarmuda.¹⁴

150. Ón dÁ rann tuṡ bṡáigṡe lair • ó éloinn Cárṡaig ó Dál ṡCair
tÁrṡarṡ ṡéill ṡall don eaṡṡa • ir ṡéill laigean na
ṡcúṡeaṡṡa.
151. áṡṡ a ṡoirṡe dṡo do bí • do mṡaioṡṡṡinn é mar ṡaṡ ní
mar rin naṡ bíu dÁ mṡaioṡṡam • Ceann Corṡarṡ do dṡio-
ṡṡaioṡeaṡ.
152. Féaṡ an éuaṡṡo rṡíoṡ rṡuṡ ar ṡṡṡaṡ • Ruaiṡṡí ar nṡol ṡo
ṡṡéin Cuiáṡ
Domnall Ó Bṡiaín tiṡ dÁ coṡṡ • ir mac Corṡmaic mṡéig Cárṡaig.
153. Do rann Munáin i nṡá éuṡo • eaṡṡṡa ar-don ṡo ṡeaṡo dṡuṡo
ir tuṡ a bṡáigṡe do bṡarṡ • ó mṡás Cárṡaig ré comall.
154. mṡí fṡuigṡeaṡ éin-rṡíṡ oile • áṡṡ a bṡáirṡ féin réir oile
dÁ nṡeaṡṡṡarṡo d'Éṡṡṡinn dÁ éuṡo • áṡṡ don-rṡoinn mṡoṡa
mṡaṡṡaṡo.
155. mṡí iṡṡṡarṡo rṡib ṡoinn ra leaṡb • dÁmaṡo lṡb ó éeaṡṡ a reaṡb
mÁr i an rṡíṡe ar leaṡb ann • ir oṡṡne do bí a haṡṡṡom.
156. A leicṡéirṡ rin lé dṡeaṡṡarṡo • ic áṡṡeamṡ rṡíoṡ ṡo neamṡ-ṡṡan
ṡṡo beaṡ do háṡṡṡeaṡo laṡ-ra • meṡṡam naṡ fṡuil áṡaṡ-ra.
157. Muṡṡeaṡṡaṡ mṡóṡ mÁr leicṡ-rṡí • 'r a mac rin ṡaṡṡ á-dṡeṡṡí
do háṡṡṡeaṡo leaṡ ṡo dÁna • iṡo na rṡíoṡaṡb iomlána.
158. Má fṡuaṡṡ Donnṡaṡo ṡéill mṡíṡe • do fṡuṡṡṡṡ féin 'r a fine
naoṡ mṡliaṡṡna an rṡíṡe ṡan ṡoinn • ṡar éir Bṡiaín do mṡaioṡṡ-
ṡeaṡṡuinn.
159. Ainm ṡleaṡṡa mṡéill ṡo nṡeaṡṡ-ṡaṡ • ceicṡe fine na ṡeaṡṡaṡ
an rṡíṡe dṡóib ṡo nṡleaṡṡarṡ • an ṡ-ainm rṡóṡ dÁ dṡeṡṡṡeaṡṡo.
160. mṡí dÁ ṡcúṡo ar ṡṡúṡ don ṡíṡ • ṡeaṡṡaṡṡ Bṡeaṡ i mṡbíṡṡ rṡíṡ
áṡṡ ṡoṡṡ rṡíoṡ do dṡeanaṡ dṡí • ir ṡeaṡṡ éua don rṡíṡe.
161. i ṡṡeaṡṡaṡṡ ní raṡṡe rṡí • ó do eaṡṡain Ruṡṡan i
do bí an rṡíṡe ar a ṡon ṡoin • áca 'r ṡan iṡo i ṡṡeaṡṡaṡṡ.
162. Rí ṡeaṡṡaṡ ainm ṡaṡ rṡíoṡ dṡíob • ar ṡṡṡéigṡean ṡeaṡṡaṡ na
rṡíoṡ
ṡeaṡṡaṡṡ ṡaṡ baṡṡe i mṡbí rṡí • fáṡ an ṡoṡṡ-anna aṡ-éluincí.
163. ṡaṡ rṡí dÁr rṡíoṡarṡo d'fṡuil mṡéill • do nṡíob ṡeaṡṡaṡṡ dÁ ṡṡaṡb féin
éṡeaṡo ṡuṡ do ṡṡuoṡṡ Éibṡṡṡ ṡṡinn • naṡ dṡeaṡṡṡarṡo rin ṡe
nÉṡṡṡinn.
164. A mṡic DÁṡṡe ir mṡaṡṡṡ nÁr éṡeṡo • ṡean-rṡoinn ṡleaṡṡo a-dṡeaṡṡ
dṡeo
aṡá i bṡaṡṡ nÁr léigṡeaṡo leam • áṡṡṡeanna Inṡe Éṡeann.

¹ Pallas Green, Co. Lim., A.U. 1168. ² D. mor O Briain d. 1194. ³ A.U. 1168. ⁴ V. 66. ⁵ V. 147; K. III. 296. ⁶ Toirdhealbhadh s. of Tadhg s. of Brian Boróimhe. ⁷ V. 145. ⁸ 1014-1022. ⁹ Of the "four families of Tara" given in Bk. of Rights and in O Duibheagain's topographical poem (cf. Magh Leana) three are not of Niall's race. Perhaps the reference is to the four Nialls who were High Kings—N. Naoighiallach, N. Frosach, N. Caille, N. Glundubh. ¹⁰ B. Ballymete?

150. From the two divisions, from Clann Carthaigh and from Dal gCais he brought hostages. On that expedition he got hostages of the Gaill and of the Laighin too.
151. Except for my time being so short, I would also have mentioned the razing of Ceann Coradh, but on that account I do not mention it.
152. Look at the visitation our chief, Ruaidhri, made South, after going to Grian Cliach.¹ Domnall O Briain² yielded to him, and the son of Cormac Mac Carthaigh.
153. He divided Mumha in two³ between them both—by your leave I say it—and took hostages, too, from Mac Carthaigh for fulfilment of his pact.
154. No other king can be found (?) of those who divided Eire in two, except on the one occasion, the division with Mogh Nuadhat.
155. You would not want to divide the child⁴ if it were rightly yours. If the kingdom be considered as a child its care was incumbent on us.
156. I do not think you can show us such a thing as that in your clumsy counting of kings—though indeed you could not count very many.
157. If Muirheartach Mor⁵ and Tadhg's son whom you mention⁶ were half kings, you counted them boldly as full kings.
158. If Donnchadh⁷ got hostages of Meath, he and his race allowed the kingdom for nine years after Brian's death to be undivided in possession of Maolsheachluinn.⁸
159. The title of Niall's blessed race is "the four families of Teamhair."⁹ That name is there to prove that the kingship was their due.
160. Not to their portion of the land did Teamhair Breagh, where they ruled, belong at first, but they made their palace of it and the kingship came to them.
161. In Teamhair there was no king after Ruadhan had cursed it. Though not in Teamhair they held the kingship all the same.
162. "King of Teamhair" was the title of them all after the abandonment of royal Teamhair. Teamhair is the name of every place where a king is. The reason of the title you now hear.
163. Every king of Niall's blood made a Teamhair of his own house. Why did not Eibhear's race do the same for Eire?
164. Son of Daire, woe to him who did not believe the old verse of the poet which I shall quote, and which is given where I have read the "Wonders of Eire."¹⁰

165. Ro déct i Mumain san áear • tponn píos píosna písh-éigear
san ionnraighio for miall neart • ronar páime rádaileact.
166. Do púgnir tponm eile ar miall • níor éoir a ráo géir mar
brian
sur mó a foznam don Vanba • ná foznam Néill natarba.
167. Tas miall gá foznam ar mó • go héirinn ne humla do
bráighe ó píosactaib oile • nac tiorba brian bóromhe.
168. As rin fáct for-anna Néill • mar tuas tar muir ceitre géill
ir mar áirinn cás na sceann • bráighe cúigead na héireann.
169. Sgriobtar ar n-a fíor-plata • mar do bpiread react seata
na n-a éoir iar n-éas do rinn • óta Muir nloct go
héirinn.
170. Créad nac áireomhinn an pí • mac fiafrae dárb ainm Dá Cí
do gab neart go Siab nealpa • béim air cia dárb mbeanta.
171. Dibeirt cnoct-gall cuire ar brian • mār é maoidear tura
ar miall
níor lamrao rin teact né linn • gá breair a scor a héirinn.
172. Níor cuir brian iao a héirinn • ir níor páim dá haor léiginn
ar mbeir dóib i nDuibhinn toir • le Danmarza do-rocair.
173. Do déanadair eactrainn ne miall • connrao nac deaprao
ne brian
san teact dóib go Clár Coctais • 'r san dol roir ar
eactrainneab.
174. Mār é a glór asrai-re ar miall • fá otugair a barr do
brian
ní clor tponm ón noir oile • Conn Céao-éatae Conaire.
175. Do épero brian i gCrioirt mac Dé • 'r do éperoad cás
i na pé
tasra pír ir deacair dām • ar luét adarba ioal.
176. Ní feodar aet rin a-máin • muna scuirtea breir le bárb
créad fá otugair barr na brear • do písh dárb éin ó
éidear.
177. Níor éin uair ramaíl na píos • ba peair rmaet ba paide píos
pé píero bliadan aet beas • don oile né linn níor léigread.
178. Aet fulung Conaire dárb • clann Duinn Déara péir peair bárb
'r a scur a héirinn fá deoir • ir dor an uile dá n-amhdeoin.

¹ Sic. O'Don. Irish Penny Jour. I. 94, or "There have been acknowledged to exist," from damin, cf. Contrib.; O'Don. Suppl. ² From the poem

ascribed to Aldfred, son of king of Northumberland (Hard. Minst. II. 373); cf. Ériu, viii. 64. ³ II. 32. ⁴ V. 71. ⁵ K. II. 410. ⁶ Leabhar

Gabhala. ⁷ Cf. "diar do rinn" "two dying by sword," C. McDáire, R.I.A.

²³ F. 16, p. 128, v. 15.

⁹ K. II. 412. ¹⁰ Alps.

¹⁴ N. 27, C. 20, C. 70.

Bruighean Da Dhearga.

⁸ English Channel, so called from Portus Iccius.

¹¹ V. 72. ¹² Eire. ¹³ Niall, Conn, Conaire.

¹⁵ V. 82. They were his foster-brothers, cf.

¹⁶ The British pirates M. C. 136

165. "I have found ¹ in Mumha, beyond doubt, a multitude of kings, queens, and royal poets,—no attack on strong Niall—prosperity, peace, pleasure." ²
166. There is another hard thing you said of Niall. It was not right to say—though Brian was a good man—that his benefits to Banba were greater than the service of serpent-fierce ³ Niall. ⁴
167. Niall brought to Eire, in subjection to him, captives from other kingdoms, whom Brian could not have brought. What service could be greater?
168. The reason of Niall's epithet is that he brought from over-sea four hostages, and everyone counts in addition the five hostages of the provinces of Eire. ⁵
169. It is written ⁶ how, for his kingly righteousness, seven battles were won at the coming of his body, after his death by the sword, ⁷ from Muir nIocht ⁸ back to Eire.
170. Why should I not count the king Dathi, ⁹ Fiachraidh's son, who ruled as far as Sliabh nEalpa ¹⁰? Who is he who should speak ill of him?
171. If it be the banishment of the foreign soldiers, attributed by you to Brian, of which you boast as against Niall, they dared not come in Niall's day. It was not the greater thing to drive them out.
172. Brian did not drive them out of Eire, and her learned folk were not at peace. ¹¹ When the Danes were at Duibhlinn in the East he fell at their hands.
173. The foreigners would have made with Niall a compact, which they did not make with Brian, namely, that they should not come to Cobhthach's Land, ¹² and that he should not go East on foreign hostings.
174. If it be his words which you object to in Niall, and which cause you to put Brian above him, no hard words were heard from the other two, Conn and Conaire.
175. Brian believed in Christ the Son of God, as everyone in his day. It is hard for me to contend with him in this respect by means of worshippers of idols (?).
176. I know not why—except for that one point (Niall being pagan)—unless you wanted to be partial, you assigned the superiority to any king sprung from Eibhear.
177. There never sprang from him anyone like the kings ¹³ whose power was greatest, whose peace was longest. Almost for a hundred and twenty ¹⁴ years they suffered no evil in their day,
178. —except that Conaire put up with those men, Donn Deasa's children, ¹⁵ on whom he showered affection (?)—though he expelled them finally by force together with the evil doers. ¹⁶

179. 1r 1aṁ ar fēarr fuaip nīge · nīorū fāṁa a léim tar líne
1r ṁo cūmṁaig ceapc a rean · 'r a ṁoṁa i n-aic a n-aicreāḁ.
180. 1r ṁoib ba ṁoṁaigē an ponn · 1oir ṁoṁaḁ típe 1r ṁonn
ṁo ṁearū an ṁoṁ 1r an meap · sup maic fuaipreāḁ a
bṁlaicēap.
181. 11or fēac ṁpian ceapc fān nīge · acē a buain ṁā flait pípe
tar éir ṁoṁaḁ ṁlūn ṁo ṁoḁṁ · pua mṁpian fuaip nār ṁab
nīoṁacē.
182. Acē 1aṁ ṁ'fuirēac i mbun ceipc · ṁar ṁoṁiṁ 1r ní ṁ'earbaṁ
neipc
ṁuṁ ṁoib ro ṁan teacē 1r-teaṁ · mar ṁpian cāimig tar
ṁliṁeāḁ.
183. 11uṁip an ṁā bliāḁan ṁeāṁ · ṁā n-aipmē na nīṁ³ ní bṁeāṁ
nīor ṁo ní ṁpian ṁr ṁanba · acē a ṁpí ṁan fṁearaḁpa.
184. 1oir ṁpiorc a ṁo 1r mile · ṁo ṁionnṁṁṁ ṁpian a nīge
'r nīor ṁab sup an ṁeic 1ar-roin · bṁaigṁe ṁonail 1r eoaṁ.
185. 1eigṁeap leac iomṁúra ṁpian · i nṁac bliāḁain ṁiaḁ i
nṁiaḁ
1r 1ṁpūḁ a ṁarṁaṁ a ṁāla · i leāḁpaib aorṁa annāla.
186. ṁo bliāḁaib ṁā bliāḁain ṁeāṁ · 1eip ṁan aicēeḁ ar n-a
eāṁ
ṁā 1eigṁe ṁoṁ aigṁeap maic · ní bṁaḁ ṁpian ina an-flait.
187. 1ṁor ṁ'fēoḁm ṁon ṁpian-ra ṁoib ṁloṁo · tar ceann cāic ṁā
fēapmaḁ ouro
ṁ tāro ṁar roḁar uile · ṁā ṁcor i n-uēc don-ouine.
188. 1r beāṁ ṁac roḁar ṁā mēāḁ · naḁ paibe acē ṁā bliāḁain
ṁeāṁ
ṁ'aiprip ṁpian 1r é na hipr · aṁ ṁeānam leapa ṁ'ēipinn.
189. fāre real ṁonape an nīoṁ · reacē nṁeic ṁo bliāḁaib ṁo
fīor
éipe ar na aiprip ṁo b'fēarr · ré n-abpaip-re real aic-ṁeaprip.
190. ṁibé heile 1r ṁā mile · ṁo bliāḁaib ro baí an nīge
ṁan putinn ṁo roḁar na rean · pe mṁpian aṁ macaib mīleāḁ.
191. Curo ṁon roḁar mṁaḁre ar ṁpian · ní mṁaḁṁpinn ar ṁonn ná
ar mīall
ṁo 1eip lom ar cāc ṁo eāḁ · ní nār ṁeānta ṁo ṁeānam.
192. 11or cūipce i n-ionṁaḁ ar nīṁ · pe linn cṁeṁm ṁo ṁab típ
ṁā mṁaḁ an eāṁlaip real · mar ṁac nīṁ ṁar ṁab cṁeṁeāḁ.

¹ "ní coirceim ná léim tar líne," *τ. mēṁaṁ, R.I.A. 23 H. 25, p. 45, v. 4.*
² Cf. "1r caoi pípe a héaṁnac ṁnoin," *S. mac an bṁip, R.I.A. 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 56*; "a flait pípe fṁoṁṁe," *τ. mēṁaṁ, R.I.A. 23 C. 18, p. 66, v. 44*; "iú pípe na pṁipne," *id. G. 24, p. 22, v. 9.* ³ *nīge MSS.* ⁴ *A.U. disagree with this.* ⁵ Cf. "ré céāṁ ṁeāṁ ṁ'aoir an anáil," *S. mac an bṁip, R.I.A. 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 69.* ⁶ Also called Tal. ⁷ *V. 72.*

179. These three had the most glorious reigns. Not far did they outstep the bounds ¹ of right. They preserved the rights of their ancients, and their rights to rule in the place of their fathers.
180. For them the land was most fruitful in riches of earth and waves. The corn and the fruit proved that it was by right they got their power.
181. Brian regarded not justice in the matter of his kingship, but sought to take the kingship from the lawful ² house, after thirty generations (of his race) had passed which did not seize it.
182. It was because they held firm to justice, I suppose, and not through lack of strength, that they did not force their way unlawfully into power as Brian did.
183. As for the twelve years which you count in Brian's reign, ³ I assure you that Brian was unchallenged king of Banba only for three.
184. In the year a thousand and two Brian began his reign, and until the year ten after that he did not get hostages from Conall and Eoghan. ⁴
185. Let Brian's history be read by you, year after year, and examine his doings in the ancient books of Annals. ⁵
186. If twelve years had been found assigned him without dispute after his death for the purpose of fair argument on your part, Brian would not have been a usurper.
187. Great is your use of your Brian of the race of Blod, ⁶ whom you extol beyond all men, since all your "benefits" are attributed by you to one man alone.
188. Small is any benefit, however great, which lasted only the twelve years of Brian's reign, especially seeing that only at the end of that time was he doing any service to Eire.
189. Longer was the time of King Conaire, seventy years exactly. In his time was Eire most happy—the time you style "a short time."
190. Just as though for two thousand years the kingship was held by Mile's sons without our ancestors being benefited until Brian came!
191. Some of the "benefits" you boast of for Brian I would not boast of for Conn or Niall. However, to do a wrong thing leaves one open to attack.
192. It should not be thought wonderful in a king, ruling in the days of faith, if he enriched the Church for a time ⁷ as everyone did who received the faith.

193. Tóir ar túr eis gac eolar • tar mair go héirinn feolar
tánsgadair rloinnnte mar rin • me linn bhuain mair fá
maoiróim.
194. Bíod nác bád ní é ar éirinn • má tug dóir do luét léiginn
ir beas nác ionnár don fíor • atá go móir dá maoiream.
195. Ar é-aíteir ní maoire mé • an fúirtaét eis d'easlaír Dé
do bí i nmaoirre feaét oile • me doirgeaét d'loó Oronaire.
196. Iar raoraó naom ir nemiead • miorbal Dé air níor ceilead
fuil Éiríort moen do donnaire • eis na mé ar an tsacra-
maine.
197. Céile Dé don fairrige a nvear • tigead go hloó ar a lear
ir rírebeann do nim ar oteaét • gac laoi mé nveanaó
pnoiceart.
198. Gíó maoiréad tura ar do brian • ní hé fuair na fpara aét
hall
d'fíor-flata ir ead ar tige • do beir Dia na tiorlaicte.
199. Ní maoirte ar brian aét go mín • san ar noútaís do buain
óinn
dád tairgead do b'easlaír lair • ní nác veairnram do g'eana-
mair.
200. Ní fúigead pé an ríge féin • aét tpe ioménúé foia léill
ir loó Craoibe Tolca toir • i gcozad me mac Arzair.
201. Ar ron timceallair banba • don Dál gCair rin go calma
mair leo fillead san taear • 'r san ríol gCuinn do gream-
adad.
202. Ní fuair Muirceartac gairm ríog • mac léill gLún-duib
fa beo gnóim
tug cuair me h-éin-míle fear • timceall éireann ar éisean.
203. Tug rí g Muir leir i lán • Ceallacán san ceo d'Íb táil
g'eir tú nác tugadair tpeall • umla do ríogad éireann.
204. Ná hiar veairbad air níor mó • nác rabrao fa ain-breic do
go Cluain Cairb creao san a noul • do brian dáb mbeoir
umal.
205. Ní móir go doirneann mé lán • mar a-veirici a Cairg ro d'án
nár doircreao fuil mar Dál gCair • ríol gCuinn tar éean
a noútair.
206. Na breis ort gíó nác leanfainn • mac Maoiruanaró Maoil-
feacluinn
do cuir ar Danmaris fo éirí • ir do marb Tuirgeir a
n-air-rí.

¹ For peolaim as neut. verb cf. "ar gmaob eoluir ir í an óg • feolar
róim gur an tí ar éirinn," A. Ó Dálaigh, R.I.A. 23 G. 23, p. 278, v. 7. ² V. 79.
³ V. 71. ⁴ Not in A.U.; 4 M.; Chr. Scot. ⁵ Chr. Scot. 811 mentions
something similar. ⁶ K. II. 150. ⁷ Aodh Athlamh O'Neill. ⁸ A.U. 1003.
⁹ Eochaidh and Dubhtuinne sons of Ardgar, King of Ulaidh. Cf. Flann. p. 69.

193. In the East at first comes forth all knowledge which comes ¹ over sea to Eire. Family-names thus came in Brian's day—if that be matter for boasting! ²
194. It is almost a shame for anyone to boast of him for giving alms to scholars,³ even if he were not king of Eire at all.
195. I will not, like you, boast of the help which Aodh Oirdnidhe gave God's Church, which was in slavery till he came.
196. On his freeing the saints and shrines, a wonder of God was manifested on him. Christ's blood—hail to him who saw it!—flowed in his time from the Sacrament.⁴
197. A servant of God from the southern sea used to come for Aodh's service, and each day there came a writing from Heaven by which he might give instruction.⁵
198. However boastful you are of your Brian, not he but Niall ⁶ got the showers. Owing to kingly righteousness, it is to be inferred, does God give his gifts.
199. You should boast in a very restrained way of Brian's not taking our country from us. He feared that, had he tried it, we might have done something which (luckily for him) we did not do.
200. He would not have got the kingship at all except for the jealousy felt for Niall's race, and owing to Aodh ⁷ of Craobh Tolcha ⁸ being at war in the East with Ardgar's ⁹ son.
201. As regards the circuit of Eire, bravely made by the Dal gCais, they were glad to return without a fight, and without coming to grips with Conn's race.¹⁰
202. Muircheartach,¹¹ the dashing son of Niall Glundubh who made by force the circuit of Eire with only one thousand men, did not get the title of king.
203. He took captive with him Mumha's king, Ceallachan, asking no leave of Tal's race, though you say ¹² that they (kings of Mumha) never for any time submitted to Eire's kings.
204. Seek no longer to prove that they (Northerns) were not independent of the king. Why 'did they not go to Cluain Tairbh had they been subject to Brian?
205. It almost seems to please some folk ¹³ that Conn's race did not shed their blood, as the Dal gCais, defending their land, as you say in your poem.
206. Though I shall not follow up your falsehood, I say that Maolsheachluinn son of Maolruanaidh thrice slaughtered the Danes and killed Turgeis their king.

¹⁰ V. 145. ¹¹ A.U. 943; 4 M. 941. ¹² V. 134. ¹³ *i.e.*, "You are so unpatriotic that you seem glad of the disgrace which (according to you) the Northerns incurred, by not fighting the Danes" (?).

207. Áirinnio leabhair dá céad déas . do laocair loclann i
n-éas
i gcát Cair-ghinne do cuir . 'r do bair cat i Ráit Comair.
208. Cuimniḡ Conall ir Eoḡan . ar fluaḡ Danmarḡ do b'eolac
tugrao dá cat fo reac dáib . as Ear Ruair as dro b'reacáin.
209. Cat Sḡéite Neactain do raó . loircan ní laigean náir las
tuillead ar míle do bair . fa marb do mairib loclann.
210. Doó Finnliac tug an deabao . o'féin loclann as loc
feabail
dá céad déas do ceannaib fear . i n-aon-éarín oíob do
háirnead.
211. Tug cat i gcill Ó n'Daighe . ar fluoet Danmarḡ so
n'daighe
tarla ní Connaet dá cur . naoi gcéad earbair na n'Danar.
212. Buirtear le Connaetáib cat . ar loingear Luimniḡ amac
tugrao cat oile i ro ort . Maoi dúin ríog-damha Connaet.
213. Do éuala tú a báir mar brian . miall ḡlún-duib do b'ua
do miall
ní hallar do doir ac fuil . ne fluaḡ Danmarḡ do rocair.
214. Tuicim Néill ḡlún-duib don ḡleo . Donnac mac flainn
níor léis leo
nac móir téarínó oíob a-nonn . tug ár ar laocair loclann.
215. Eactar iarrair Eorpa a ainm . mac Néill ḡlún-duib a loir
airm
ne doirgeact brian ir Murcáir . do tuic pé ne loclonn-
cáib.
216. Ní do Dál gCair na nḡeir-peann . mac Maoil-miḡ ní
Éireann
iar doicim react míle leir . ne ḡallaib loclann tuicir.
217. Ó Canannáin Ruair ní ar oiriac . ar oirionól fluaḡ so náet
Cúac
cat Muine b'roḡáin do cuir . nar tuic féin ne cloinn íomair.
218. Don r'fluaḡ léir tuic do bean oíol . dá míle ir ead corcair
oíob
ria ran gcát-ra acú do raó . tug cat ar Amilaib Cuapán.
219. Tug ní Conall cat oile . don o'ruing-re a-dubairt romhe
ar fluaḡ loclann tug trom-ár . 'r do tuic miall Ó
Canannáin.
220. Cat as bioclann i laiguib . o'féin loclonn tugrao
laiguib
i roircair Uḡaire a ní . ní do Dál gCair a ḡcluicí.

¹ 845.² 847.³ i.e., Southern I Neill.⁴ Northern I Neill.⁶ Cf. XXVIII. 28.⁸ 838.⁷ 847.⁸ 847.⁹ A.U. 865; K. II. 189.¹⁰ A.U. 867.¹¹ Conchobhar.¹² A.U. 837.¹³ At Cill Mosamhog, near Dublin.

207. The books tell of twelve hundred of the Lochlann warriors whom he slew at Cais Glinne,¹ and he won Rath Comair.²
208. Remember Conall³ and Eoghan,⁴ who knew so well⁵ the Danes' hosts. They fought two separate battles with them, at Eas Ruadh⁶ and Ard Brecaín.⁷
209. Great Lorcan king of Laighin fought Sciath Neachtain.⁸ More than a thousand warriors of the Lochlann were left dead.
210. Aodh Finnliath fought the host of the Lochlann at Loch Feabhail.⁹ Twelve hundred heads of men were counted in one heap.
211. He won valiantly at Cill O nDaighre¹⁰ victory over the Danmairg. The king of the Connachta fought it too. Nine hundred was the loss of the Danmairg.
212. A battle is won by the Connachta¹¹ over the fleet of Luimneach. They fought another battle where Maolduin¹² heir of Connachta was slain.
213. You have heard of the death (as Brian's) of Niall Glundubh,¹³ Niall's grandson. He shed not his sweat, but his blood,¹⁴ and was killed by the hosts of the Danmairg.
214. Donnchadh son of Flann left not unavenged the death of Niall Glundubh in that fray, so that few escaped. He slaughtered the warriors of the Lochlann.¹⁵
215. "The Hector of Western Europe" was the name of Niall Glundubh's son¹⁶ for his martial deeds. Before Brian or Murchadh he was slain by the Lochlainn.
216. Maolmitig's son,¹⁷ king of Eire, was not of the sharp-speared¹⁸ Dal gCais. After slaying seven thousand¹⁹ he was slain by the Lochlann foreigners.
217. Ruaidhri O Cananain, our prince, when the hosts gathered at Ath Cliath, fought the battle of Muine Brogain²⁰ where he was slain by Iomar's²¹ sons.
218. He made the host that slew him pay dearly for it, for two thousand of them fell. Before this battle he had fought with Amhlaoibh of the Sandals.²²
219. The king of Cineal Conaill fought also with that host. On the Lochlainn he inflicted slaughter, and Niall O Cananain fell.²³
220. The Laighin fought the Lochlainn at Biothlann²⁴ in the land of the Laighin, where Ugair²⁵ their king fell. He was not of the Dal gCais, do you notice.

A.U. 919. ¹⁴ V. 57. ¹⁵ At Tigh Mic Deichtig. 4 M. 919. ¹⁶ Muircheartach of the Leather Cloaks. ¹⁷ Congalach. ¹⁸ ηγεαρχαν, ηγεαρχαν MSS. ¹⁹ 948.
²⁰ 4 M. 948; K. III. 238. ²¹ Danish king, d. 873. ²² 4 M. 945. ²³ G.G.
²⁴ 4 M. 976. ²⁵ King of Laighin.

221. Féac a tairis an don tál-fuil . éigneacán móir mac Dálaig
do cuir cat i sCeann Maighair . dá tuis ar ar Dhanairib.
222. O'ér óir na nSall do dás-íoinn . annrin arcinéal sConaill
fuair a arios iar na d'ail . pé tadbairt do mac Ionáin.
223. Máir é ar adbar maoríte deit . bár Úrman Dóruime 'r a
meic
pe fluas Dhanmarz i nDeabair . féac a scor pe sDorbealaib.
224. Níor féarao Dál sCair do gnát . a scorz o'érinn acé
mar éac
sac pe real a-nonn 'r a-nall . ní maoríte cozaó loclann.
225. Níor áirinn na cúis mile . pe Maol-féacluinn ríocht fípe
do tuit i sCac Teamhra éall . mar don ar mac ríoz loclann.
226. Ceirpe cača nar máoró mé . 'r an cat-ra Teamhra tug pé
nár cuir ar luéta an éirí . 'r san é na mac Cinnéiriz.
227. A n-arios do níor raoileat . a mbuí leo do bpoio sDorbeal
so bfuair Maol-féacluinn tar air . ar ac Cliaé do bí
a forbair.
228. Tug iar rin fósra oirdeire . do éac iar scorz sac fírinneir
le raoirpe a pean le rocar . o'féarib éireann o'opracat.
229. An éao bliadain dá ríge . tug Maol-féacluinn ríocht
fípe
na rocar rin do bean rir . sro ar Úrman tcar do máoríur.
230. I n-iongnat na sCuirpe ar Úrman . a tcar ra neart mall
do éruall
do beir tuit a máorbeaí air . péinnear ah ríoz 'r a
rocar.
231. Cat Cairn Forpoma nár éair . ar tcar Muman tugat lair
i bfearta nime i Maiz bpeas . cat oile ar Úrman do búr-
pean.
232. Na bpoilecar ort má táro rin . an dá éac-rin tadbaim ríu
féac leabair Úirb Óa leite . 'r ní bia ort na inleite.
233. I sconnimear níor cuirte Úrman . tar Maol-féacluinn ruar
pe mall
níor meirte Úrman breit a bairr . sé do aicrís Maol-
féacluinn.
234. Ir é do b'faroe na rí . ir do b'feair ceart ar an tóir
'r ar mó ar a rírobaio fill . 'r ar luza ainm ain-toliró.

¹ A.U. 906, 4 M. 901. ² Killaneer, Co. Don. not in A.U. 4 M. Perhaps the battle in 920 fought by Feargal is by mistake referred to Eigneachan.
³ Flann. Story is told in Flann's poem "ar do rígal," M. C. II. 103.
⁴ 980. Ragnall, son of Amhlaoibh. ⁵ A.U. 983, 998, 1000, 1017. ⁶ Saoilim "hope," then "intend" (?). ⁷ After Teamhair. ⁸ 4 M. 979. ⁹ A.U. 689. South of Athlone. ¹⁰ A.U. 1000. Feartagh, Co. Meath. ¹¹ Tadbaim, I trust to, cf. "míro dam dul im dútaiz . maiz tadbair tír an-tuataiz : í tá an raozal na fear fill . a tadbao créao pá sCierpinn"; "dá tadbair.

221. Think Tadhg ! was Eigneachan son of Dalach,¹ he who fought at Ceann Maghair,² slaughtering the Danars, of Tal's race.
222. After distributing the gold of the Gaill among the people of Conall, he had it given back again, so as to give a share to Lonan's son.³
223. If your great boast be Brian's death and his son's at the hands of the Danmarg in fight, look at the Danmairg's fortune when set against the other Gaedhil.
224. Just like the others, the Dal gCais were able only to keep the foreigners out of Eire—alternately coming and going. You cannot boast of the Lochlann wars.
225. You counted not the five thousand who with the son ⁴ of the Lochlainn's king were slain at Teamhair by Maoilsheachluinn of the legitimate stock.
226. Besides that, at Teamhair he fought four battles ⁵ which I have not mentioned, slaughtering the mail-clad warriors though he was not Cinneideach's son !
227. Maolsheachluinn did not seek ⁶ to ransom the captives of the Gaedhil held by them (Danes), but kept up the siege of Ath Cliath ⁷ till he got them back.
228. Then he issued the famous order ⁸ to all men, after checking lawlessness, for the establishing of the liberties of the ancients, and for the benefit of Eire's folk.
229. In his first year, Maolsheachluinn of the true descent conferred the benefits which should be attributed to him, though you give them as Southern Brian's.
230. What you think so wonderful in Brian, namely his seizing the kingship—foolish is your idea—makes you wrongly assign to him the period and the benefit of the true king's reign.
231. He won Carn Fordroma ⁹—fierce fray—over Tuath Mumhan. At Fearta Nimhe,¹⁰ at Magh Breagh he again crushed Brian.
232. If these two battles, which I rely on to answer you,¹¹ be a hidden thing for you, look at Dubh Da Leithe's book,¹² and they will no longer be a mystery for you.
233. You should not have compared Brian with Niall, passing over Maolsheachluinn. Well for Brian had he surpassed the latter—though he did dethrone him !
234. Maolsheachluinn was the longer king, had the better title to the land. Poets speak more of him, and injustice is less told of him.

é baó aiténeac," "σοταοβαν ταμὰλλ οἰτε • μιοτ Δ ρί να τμύοαιμε : αν τμιοέ-
 ῖαοῖαλ Δ ῥέ βί • νάρ μιο-εαοβαν έ Δ αμιο-ρί," Δ. Ὁ Ὀάλαϊς, R I.A. 23 G.
 23, p. 294, v. 1, 2, T.C.D. 1356, p. 266, v. 27. ¹² O'R. ; 4 M. 978.

235. Trí céad dalta do Mac Dé • i n-onóir Críost do oil pé
cuid do áiteirí sibé heile • 'r a b'ar iar mbuair n-aiteiríge.
236. Mí fuair éin-pí d'áicme Úrman • an gcáin roimhe ná na d'air
do Laisnib tar tír oile • níor d'is buain na bóruime.
237. Dá leanad Úrman mar mairde • loirí canóna san élaoine
ait-píogad do b'ole an b'reat • ar píog éorónta éráib'teac.
238. Tuatál Teachtmar do dainisnig • bóruime ar túr ar Laisnib
i n-íoc a ingean san oil • dá d'ugrad éas i meabail.
239. Do mairt fionnacta re m'Úrman • an buair-ro go b'at do d'ia
ceatracá píog go a pé roin • do píol Tuatál ro d'obair.
240. An bóruime ó ráir'tear Úrman • mar slóir díomáoin tugad
tíar
an t-ainm blaðmannac d'ar leam • ó buair Laisgean nár
d'is-gean.
241. Ar Úrman dá píom ní raclam • cluice ó gCair i gCnoc
Sparrann
ar m'náib na n'Sall dóir pí dóir • iar mbuair cacla i
Sulcúir.
242. Már é ar an-flait d'ib go ceart • ní imreart ceart mar a neart
i n-a'air Úrman i' tú lair • tug doir a'ar nár d'asrair.
243. Ár Dainmair do éur fa d'ó • i Maig locla i gCairgais d'ó
re m'ail Caille c'ir píne • mac Críom'tainn i gCíom-píge.
244. Níor éirte duit ainm do píog • tar a compáir péin 'r san
é píor
a méad i' meirde an lo'ad • a'ail d'atá t'f'or-molad.
245. An dá focail tugair lat • ar do lairíon péin go slan
atá an t'rear focail ann d'na¹³ • i n'air Scotorum Scriba.
246. Maig nár léig na trí focail • ó d'oi i d'eanig'air go
f'ortail
ma rin do tugair go g'inn • b'ar m'leil do d'abairt
d'f'orlím.
247. Már molta an beata do neac • d'air náom sibé do neac
do féad t'ar d'eanam teinn • mar rin a beatair f'orlím.
248. Do eargain Ciabán Cluana • mac Críom'tainn cia nac cuail
im éro d'á cille iar na érad • i' d'é táinig a t'ugad.
249. Do d'air'breac d'ó Ciabán cáir • go n-a d'acail i na láir
go d'ar' f'ortain d'ar leir air • 'r níor mair mac Críom-
tainn blaðain.

¹ "victory of penance," a common phrase. ² V. 85. ³ Maoilsheachluinn.

⁴ K. II. 254. ⁵ K. II. 256. ⁶ G.G. 968. "i' ann do m'onta Sparrang mic
p'aradac accu .i. líne móir do d'air'eadair na n'Sall i gCnocánaib Sangail
imacuart ocu' r'at críoma ocu' a láma ar lár," etc., "Sparrann," "horse
race," then any race, game. The hill of Sanglain (Singland), near Limerick,
may have been called Cnoc Sparrann from this event. For another Cnoc
Grafann, cf. B. R. p. 89; Todd Lect. Vol. viii, pt. i., p. 76. ⁷ Near Limerick

235. Three hundred fosterlings of the Son of God, whom he reared in Christ's honour, are part of the evidence for him—to mention nothing else—and his holy death.¹
236. No king of Brian's race before him or after him ever got the tax from the Laighin or from anyone else. He had no right to exact the cess.
237. Had Brian, as you say,² honestly followed precedent, it was an evil counsel of his to dethrone a pious and crowned king.³
238. Tuathal Teachtmhar first imposed the cattle-cess on the Laighin⁴ to avenge his pure daughters, on whom the Laighin inflicted shameful death.
239. Before Brian, Fionnachta⁵ remitted the cattle-cess for ever for God's sake. Forty kings of Tuathal's race up to his time exacted it.
240. The "cattle-cess," applied to Brian, was given him in the west as a vain title. He deserved not the boastful name from getting the Laighin's cattle.
241. I will not go on to tell about Brian, the game which Cas' sons at Cnoc Grafann⁶ played on the women of the Gaill, their hands on each other's hands, after the victory of Sulchoit.⁷
242. If the true usurper be the king who measures his right by his might,⁸ take care lest, though you are on Brian's side, your arguments tell against him.
243. Seeing that Niall Caille twice slaughtered the Danmairg at Magh Iotha⁹ and Calgaigh, why do you compare Criomthan's son¹⁰ with Niall as an equally good king?
244. You should not have put your king's (Feidhlimidh) name beyond comparison with him (Niall)—for it was not justifiable.¹¹ Indulgence is worse the greater it is. Thus with your praise. (K).
245. As for the two words you quote from your Latin so neatly,¹² there is, however, the third one, the one after "Scotorum" *i.e.* Scriba!¹³
246. A pity you did not read the three words, since you are strong in languages,¹⁴ before putting so clearly Feilim above Niall!
247. If the life of him who afflicts the saints is to be praised, only so could you boast of Feilim's life!
248. Ciaran of Cluain¹⁵—all know it—cursed Criomhthann's son for injuring him in his church property.¹⁶ Thence his end came on him.
249. Blameless Ciaran, staff in hand, appeared to him, and struck him as he thought.¹⁷ Criomhthann's son lived not a year after.

Junction. ⁸ V. 113. ⁹ A.U. 844. ¹⁰ Feidhlimidh. V. 120. ¹¹ 8 syll. omit féin? ¹² V. 121. ¹³ (?) MSS. οονα. ¹⁴ V. 37. ¹⁵ C. Mic Nois. ¹⁶ 4 M. 844. ¹⁷ C.C.C. § 2; Magh Rath, p. 327.

250. Do gheall Ciapan fôr nac biað • neapc fêilim ó Cluain
a-map
nac maic an fíadhnairc ro • re ouain Siolla Mo Dubda.
251. A ceapc féin nac beanrað oib • flann 'r é ar éirinn na písz
an gceirtoir eac 'r sup léis rib • bar leactrom le písz cóisrò.
252. Doð an gai beapnais do gearr • bile an mluige ir iongnad
leam
airto-pi éipeann map nár lamh • imbeirc cluice ar mais
adair.
253. Tug tairc Donncað Uí Ruairc • ó Enoc Saingil curo dá
cuairc
cead sup Dál gCair-re níor gab • ir tug bradán Cinn Corað.
254. Ná cuir bréas ar fuil na miall • níor gabrað tuarparad
mamh
ó doin-neac i nluir Airt • baot don céad Tadó a labairc.
255. Tuarparad Tadó Cúol-uirge • aicne dam-ra ir tuit-re
eic Uí Néill 'r a eacrað féin • do diultad do map
caitpém.
256. As ro a demin duit mað ail • do lusz lása ir beas nac
nair
ó do maoirir Airt doin-fear • cia ar bað cóir a com-
maoirdeamh.
257. Tar a bfuair do gonaib am • ir é Lioghairne por marb
iar dtuitim Airt ar an mais • ir ann por díceann luszarò.
258. Ar laignib ir ar Mumain • do iarr Cormac a cumail
'r do cuir go gcead doo cumine • bár Airt i leir Lioghairne.
259. Léistear lib an teacta ¹⁴ breac • bar n-amap oim dá mbeac
ar laignib deapbóca duit • sup iarr Cormac a éaruc.
260. Cladap fearc fuirmicir lia • ní leanað dé-rin níor ria
cuir an corp rin i gcumine • pul fapfear tú Lioghairne.
261. Deapbað oile ar lusz ronn • ro bár Airt a-dubairc Soll
ir nár duit gac ar gellair • már fear marb do dí-
ceannair.
262. 'S é luairdeaða an gairgíð gíunn • már é tug ort-ra an
breit gill
tugair do luszarò lása • ná heirg ann go han-dána.

¹ V. 122. ² V. 139. ³ A. O Conchobhair. ⁴ A. U. 1061; 4 M. 1061. ⁵ V. 139.
⁶ Son of Donnchadh Dearg mac Airt, *i.e.*, an Cailleach. He was slain 1084
and his head brought to Limerick. A. U. ; A. Tigh. ⁷ Ruaidhrí, son of Aodh,
did this in 1088. ⁸ V. 148. This is the Northern version, viz. Brian sent
back the stipend (100 horses) together with 200 of his own for acceptance
by Tadhg, but Tadhg sent them all back again. Cf. 4 M. 1258, notes.
⁹ V. 166. ¹⁰ From the foreigners, *infra* 261. ¹¹ IV. 61. ¹² Lioghairne was of
the Laighin, IV. 62. ¹³ V. 166. ¹⁴ "Lawful, proper amount of" (?) cf. Laws.
Gloss. ¹⁵ Law-book (?). cf. *corp. leabair* RIA. 23 G 23, p. 265, v. 5.
¹⁶ Reference ?

250. Ciaran also foretold that Feilim's power would not exist eastward from Cluain. Is not this good evidence for Giolla Mo Dhuda's poem ? ¹
251. Does everyone believe, like you, that Flann, when king of Eire, could not have exacted his rights from you, and that you left unavenged ² your oppression by a mere provincial king ?
252. Aodh of the gapped spear ³ cut down the tree on Magh Adhair. ⁴ I think it strange that a High King dared not play chess ⁵ there !
253. He (Aodh) took Donnchadh O Ruairc's ⁶ relics from Cnoc Saingil on one of his hostings, ⁷ and took the salmon of Cenn Coradh, nor asked leave of Dal gCais !
254. Do not slander the Niall's race. They never took stipend from anyone in Art's Isle. It was foolish of the first Tadhg to mention such a thing.
255. As for the stipend sent by Tadhg Caoluisce, I know, and you know, how O Néill's steeds together with his own steeds were refused by Tadhg as trophies. ⁸
256. Here is a proof, if you want one, as to whom Art's death should be credited. It was almost an insult to Lugh to mention Art ⁹ (being killed by him).
257. "After all the sword-wounds Art received, ¹⁰ Lioghairne ¹¹ killed him. When he was dead on the field Lugh beheaded him."
258. From the Laighin, ¹² as well as from Mumha, did Cormac demand his Cumhal, ¹³ and he attributed—with all respect to your memory—Art's death to Lioghairne.
259. Let the code of judgments (?) ¹⁴ be read by you if you suspect me. It will show you that it was from the Laighin that Cormac asked Art's blood-price.
260. "Let a grave be dug, a stone be placed," I will go no further in it. Fix that book (?) ¹⁵ in your memory before you acquit Lioghairne of the charge.
261. Here is another proof against Lugh. Goll said, ¹⁶ speaking of Art's death, "A shame to you are your fine promises, for it is a dead man thou beheadest."
262. As it is bright-armed Nuadha who brought on you (Mumha) your inferiority—which you attribute to Lugh—do not be too proud of it. ¹⁷

¹⁷ Meaning (?) "It was not, as you say, Lugh's killing of Art that made Cormac attack Mumha, but Cormac wished to get from Mumha the land which Mumha had got as blood-price for the death of Eidirsel. Nuadha by killing Eidirsel caused all the trouble." Cf. Ogygia III. c. 44; 4 M. 5090.

263. Cuiprò an d'án rin san céill • Eadcar tar dicill mac péil
'r nac r'ghóib'car bap'p' d'aoim-ferar air • aét do Samron nó
d'earcail.
264. Neart do luza m'ar fearb' gút • fo readt i gConall Cearnac
atá ra d'án-ra d-uim • as fo an fát fá b'foillirgim.
265. Do bí Cu Rdoi mac Dáire • d'fuit éireamóin san t'áire
readt cia d'ib' ba éalma i gcat • i n-éin-ré ir Conall Cearnac.
266. Doo luz nioib' iarréa a n-uiraim • Cumall féin fionn
mac Cumail
d'fuit éireamóin iad fo readt • Orzár donsur d'aoi-
buaidéad.
267. Cár i raib' do luzair • Cairbre Múrg leat m'ar cumain
ar luz Mac Con an uair euz • teicéad i gcat Cinn fearad.
268. Art mac Cuinn Conn ir Cairbre • cuirfeam an uair-re ar
cairbre
ní fiú d'úinn go nuairé 'nor • beit d'á n-iomrád' re t-amor.
269. Ní d'earbair' gnióm' gcoir pé ráir • má táir uaim 'r ní labra
lám
neite nac ionráir ann-ro • aét f'eadra euzar ort-ra.
270. Dá nguróinn Crioirt mac Dé im d'án • san clonad' ar fuat
ná ar g'ráir
d-déar'adai béal-éirib'eadt rum • mar duib'ad' mot-ra
romam.
271. Déanam' lléiré d'iom ná cairg • gémad' f'airceirtne tú a
t'airg
do léigf'inn t-ollam'naet d'aoib' • 'r ní cairg'f'inn fuiré io
éat'aoir.
272. Ní cor'mail mire ir lléiré • an coir' áir'mear tú io t'péiré
beit im d'gair' d'í ní gar • biar' mo éat'aoir san clonad'.
273. Mó d'lig'f'inn m'f'iaa do díol • fearam' córa d'fuit mo ríog
ná an umla díom ro d'eadt • doot aoir a t'airg' doot or'eadt.
274. As dom'ail t'oiruir má táim • nioir leand' do loig' im d'án
mire as cum'ad' na córa • turá as díon na héagcóra.

RO CUALA.

¹ Not in V. ² Supra 261. ³ O'Dav. Gloss. 211. ⁴ K. II. 279; 4 M. 186.
⁵ V. 49 ⁶ Where? "béal-éirib'eadt" in XV. 2 is subsequent to this

263. That foolish poem of yours puts Hector above Achilles, Peleus' son,¹ though none is ever put above him except Samson and Hercules.
264. That seven times your Lugh's strength was in Conall Cearnach—though it be bitter to say—is stated in the poem I mention.² That is why I speak of it.
265. Curaoi son of Daire, certainly of Eireamhon's race, was contemporary—no doubt—with Conall Cearnach. See which of them was the braver! (K.).
266. You should not have sought for Lugh the respect due to Cumhall, Fionn his son,—both of Eireamhon's race—Oscar, and Aongus of the threatening spear.³
267. Where was your Lugh (Lamha) when Cairbre Musc, if you remember, routed Lughaidh Mac Con at Ceann Feabhrad? ⁴
268. I shall put off speaking of Art mac Cuinn, Conn and Cairbre. It is not worth while now to speak again of them to attack you.
269. I am not short of facts proper to mention.⁵ I did not wish to say much of things of which there is no occasion to speak. I merely wished to answer you.
270. Were I in my poem to ask of Christ the Son of God that I might not err through hate or love, I should be called "hypocritical," as you have been called already.⁶
271. Strive not to make me out a Neidhe⁷—though you be a Ferceirtne! I shall let you keep your learning, and shall not try to sit in your chair.
272. I am not as Neidhe. Truth, which you give as one of the three things against me, is far from being so.⁸ My chair shall always be unbiassed.
273. It is more my duty to fulfil my obligations protecting the rights of my prince's race than to give you the deference which I owed to your age and your teaching.
274. If I do admit your learning, I follow not your example in my poem, I defending right, you defending the wrong.

¹ V. 187. ⁸ ní 5aπ "not near," "not easy" cf. "ní 5. molao baó oíol oí," Δ. Ó 6áλας, R.I.A. 23 G. 20, p. 386, v. 1.

nÁ BROSD MISE A MHC DÁIRE. LUĞAID Ó CLÉIRIŠ cct.

1. NÁ bporo mire a mhic Dáire • go laóearaí fóio fionn-
máige
atá aḡaib maḡ áil ḡaib • caḡail t'íḡ TÁil nó a ṽataaoir.
2. NÁ dúirig fearḡa ar bḡala • ná báirḡ céana ar ḡcomraíḡa
dom bporḡaúḡ 1 ḡceann² ó ḡCair • ir fearr m'porḡaúḡ na
n-éaḡmair.
3. Širḡ cairḡeac mé aḡ maicne Cair • tob' aḡnár dúinn a
nḡearmair
tarḡ ceairḡ 1 ṽceagmáil Torna • ḡan ceacḡ t'eaḡrám³
m'ataraḡa.
4. DÁ bḡrémḡ rin' r ar ṽioḡ ḡuro-re • mo caíraḡ mo com-foirḡe
ro ḡán ḡur ḡobuigḡ tura • táir oḡaib níor fóbmar-ra.
5. Ní ceairḡ file ir fearḡ dána • don taobḡ-re ar tí m'eaḡrána
ar fearr r ar mhó ná mire • dá ró um céann na cúire-re.
6. Dóigḡ liom ra hí tob'ura • ir trío tráḡ ro ráḡura
ar bḡreagḡa ní ráḡ beaḡḡa • tar cáḡ t'eaḡla t-imḡearḡa.
7. Dáirḡ rémḡ ḡaol ḡur ḡab mire • aḡ ro an tráḡ rá ṽtuigḡe-re
dom ḡán širḡ ro-ḡuirḡeac ríḡ • ḡlár comḡuirḡeac⁶ dá ḡclumtir.
8. An tráḡ cúirḡe aḡaíḡ oirḡ • ṽeigḡ-ḡilḡ cóigḡirḡ Connacḡ
ḡuair a lonn-ḡuigḡle 1 leirḡ ríḡ • bḡeirḡ rémḡ⁷ connail be cúirḡir.
9. Don éioḡ iomuir fearḡaíḡ ḡaib • ḡomḡ ar nḡána ba
ṽiomḡaom
marḡ bḡon dá bḡearḡair ríḡa bḡair⁸ • raorḡ ó a ṽceangḡaib
ní caḡḡair.
10. Dól ro caḡra ríḡ ní réirḡ • atáirḡ re haḡmḡir n-imḡéin
marḡ ḡac follamḡar ríḡair ríonn • uairḡ 1 n-ollamḡar
éiríonn.
11. Ní réacḡaíḡ roḡ ór dána • ḡé dóigḡ léḡ luḡḡ combáḡa
nacḡ baogal lúḡ ar a lor • dá ḡclaonaḡ ríḡ an reanḡar.
12. Dán órḡa ní hé ro ní • corḡamḡ ḡac cúire a-ṽeirḡí
ar taorḡa 1 ṽcealaigḡ na bḡíonn • acḡ leaḡair aorḡa
éiríonn.
13. Do b'féirḡir ḡó re ḡán nḡlar¹¹ • ḡirḡe file ar fearr eolair
ra clár ceamḡra na ṽtaḡar • ḡán bḡeagḡa ro bḡeagḡaḡaḡ.

¹ In Co. Limerick. ² "1 ḡceann," "to" or "against," cf. "cuma liom cáḡ im é.," a. ó ṽálaiḡ, RIA. 23 D. 13, p. 27, v. 3; "cia ar ḡuair leo ro cúir na ḡc.," t. mḡDáire, RIA. 23 D. 14, p. 135, v. 7. ³ Cf. "ar ron a eaḡrána air," t. mḡDáire, RIA. 23 C. 18, p. 66, v. 4. ⁴ L's mother was from Mumha. XVI. 40. ⁵ XVI. 40. ⁶ = com-ḡuirḡeac (?). ⁷ Cf. "na beirḡ bḡeirḡ re ḡaol dá ḡoirḡe," t. mḡDáire, RIA. 23 M. 24, p. 17, v. 2. ⁸ "Banna ri frais," etc., a common expression. ⁹ Cf. X. 24. ¹⁰ Eire. ¹¹ Cf. "nó a ríḡar ar a ríomḡ ní ḡuil. 1r ḡlar an ríomḡ an ríomḡ ríom," f. ón éánte, RIA. 23 E. 15, p. 185, v. 50.

[Another answer to V., avoiding details of argumentation. I incline to infer from v. 5, etc. (in spite of v. 16) that no other Northern poet had yet joined in the contest.]

1. Provoke me not, O son of Daire, you and the heroes of the fair Maigh.¹ Whichever you wish you can have, mercy for Tal's race or reviling of it.
2. Awake no more our bitter feeling, nor belittle our great deeds, arousing me against ² the race of Cas. Better keep me away from it.
3. Though I am friendly to Cas' race, what you said against all justice in your contest with Torna would bring disgrace on me if I did not come in to defend my native country.³
4. Of their stock (i.e. Southern) ⁴—to which you belong—are my friends and kindred. Till you forced me in your poem, I never sought to put shame on you.
5. Not few are the poets and rimers in this part of the land ready to defend me, men greater and better than I, who will come to take up this cause.
6. Easier on you would be my reply than theirs. Therefore have I on behalf of the others chosen to make it—no need for you to quail with fear!—lest you be disgraced. (K).
7. Hence you can infer that it was regard for my kindred ⁵ that prompted me, when you hear ⁶ kindly language, though you will be angry at my poem.
8. When the goodly poets of the Connachta advance against you—terrible to you shall be their wrathful words—they will show (by the contrast) my mercifulness.⁷
9. From the heavy shower of learning, which they will pour forth on you,—my words will be a weak thing in comparison, a mere drop before the shower ⁸—from their tongues you shall not come unscathed.
10. To enter into dispute with them is no easy thing. For ages past they have been—like every other superiority which we have wrested from you—high-teachers of Eire.
11. They will not heed your professional adornment,⁹ though those in sympathy with you think that owing to it you need not fear even if you pervert facts.
12. It is not a gilded poem which best defends the cause you plead in the land of the Fair Ones,¹⁰ but rather the ancient books of Eire.
13. With a simple ¹¹ poem any poet, who had good knowledge of the land of Teamhair of the strifes, could refute any tricked-out poem.

14. NÁ ʒAB ĊUʒAD A ĊAPA · m'ÉASNAĊ I ʒEPUT ĊAPĊANA
 TPOM UM LAOIŲ DÁ BPAʒAP OPT · DO PAĊAŲ ŲAOIB A-ŲUBAP.
15. MO PAĊAŲ IP TPĪŲ TAPʒA · IT IOMŲA AP N-AP EALAŲNA
 ʒOMAO ÉAOŲIʒ BPEIT AP MBAPPI¹ · IP BEIT ŲON ÉAʒĊŲIP AʒAINN.
16. NÍ NÁPI ŲUIT ŲOL PÁPI MBPEIT-NE · UAOAO ŲOT AP ĊUŲŲIʒĊE
 IP ĊOPNAMĠ NA ĊÁPA I BPAPI · TUPNAMĠ ʒAC ŲÁLA AN ŲIOMUP.
17. ŲUIŲEAC BŲPI BAŲ BEITĊE ŲUIT · ŲOT ŲÁN ŲOT ÉIʒPE OPTPIIC
 Ó BPAUI PŲIB ŲO PÉIP M'AIĊNE · AN ĊŲIP PÉIN DÁ BPAʒAIBĊE.
18. MO TEAPAPʒ NÍ ĊIOBPAINN ŲUIT · 'I NÍ ĊUIPIINN ACĊ MAP
 ĊAPAO
 LOĊT IO LEIT ŲÁMAŲ NÁMĠA · ACĊ BEIT OPT ʒO HÉAOÁNA.

NÁ BROSŲ.

¹ Cf. uses of ŲŲIʒ in Voc. ² i.e., by me. v. 5 would suggest that no other Northern had yet joined in the contention. ³ Other Northern poets.

14. Do not take to heart my friend my reproaches put in friendly form. If any severity be found in my poem I have warned you of it.
15. The reason you shall have my warning is that our sages are many, so that it were unlikely ¹ that you could defeat us, even if injustice were on our side.
16. It is no disgrace for you to yield to our judgment seeing the fewness of your helpers, and the (strong) defence of the truth here ² (in North). Pride brings down every cause.
17. Moreover you should thank your profession, your noble art of poetry, it from those who are waiting to attack you, ³ as I know, you get even fair-play.
18. I would not lecture you nor would I, except in friendly guise, charge you with your faults, even if I were your foe, but would speak to you in a gentle way.

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ΒΙΟΘ ΝΑC CΑΛΙ ΕΑΞΝΑ ΟΡΑΙΒ · ΑΝ ΒΑΡΡ ΡΡΕΑΞΡΑ ΡΥΑΡΟΒΑΙΡ.⁴
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ΝΙΟΡ ΜΟ ΟΟΜ ΛΑΒΡΑ Α ΛΥΓΑΙΩ · ΡΟ⁷ ΤΑΡΒΑ Ο ΝΑC ΤΑΡΤΕΥΒΑΙΡ.⁸
13. ΙΡ ΕΑΘ ΒΑΘ ΡΕΑΡΡ ΙΕΑΜ-ΡΑ Α ΛΥΞ · ΟΟΝ ΤΑ ΡΙΟΝΝ-ΕΡΑΟΙΒ Α
ΝΕΑΝ-ΒΥΝ
Τ'ΕΑΞΙΑ ΝΑC ΒΑΝΝ ΒΥΘ ΡΟΙΡΒ ΡΟΙΝ · ΖΑΝ ΒΑΡΡ ΡΡΕΑΞΡΑ ΟΙΡΝ
Τ'ΙΑΡΡΑΘ.

¹ VII. 6. ² i.e., I am on the defensive. ³ "Ταομ," "fit," then in general "feeling," "act," cf. XV. 49; also "Ρόιρ Α ΜΑΟΙΡ ΜΟ ΙΝΙΟ-ΕΑΟΜΑ," "ταομ ούίλτα οί νί ούίξε," Δ. Ο ΟΔΑΙΞ, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 148, v. 7; p. 265, v. 1. ⁴ "Οο-ξείβιμ," constantly "compose," cf. "Οο ξεαβαν οοο ξυνύρ νεαμ-ξαρξ," ppeit molta nae fuair file," P. ón cáinte, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 103, v. 11. ⁵ Vid. Var. Lect. ⁶ "Τοιβξιμ," "τοιβξαιμ," (1) I exact from (2) I cause. cf. Gadelica, I. 72. ⁷ Ρό is noun. ⁸ Cf. "ταρτεαμαρ τον τοιρτίορ εέαυνα," RIA. 23 H. 25, p. 45, v. 21.

[This poem is variously placed in the MSS. v. 7 shows it to be after V. ; v. 9 shows it to be after VI. ; v. 30 seems to be referred to in IX. 6 ; v. 23 would incline one to put it after O'Donnell's or McArthur's poems, but as it (cf. vv. 1, 20-21) answers VII. I have put it here.]

1. Let us speak calmly, O Lughaidh, and not be set on abusing each other. The sight of my being wrongfully abused would be a cause of fear that would not serve you.¹
2. If it be I on whom you wish to put it (abuse), why attack the race of princely Tal? It would befit you to refrain from abusing that fair-faced race, choicest in combat.
3. It was I who in regular form spoke all the argument against Torna—if that be what rouses your ire against me.
4. Let all that I then said be challenged if possible. Why do you not leave our course unchecked if you cannot refute us?
5. I thought that the bitter words spoken out there by Torna and strong Niall were an insult to Leath Mogha. Had I not had regard to that insult ² I would not have spoken as I have done.
6. I gave without any exaggerated wild invention,³ a fair reply to some of his words. What I said of the genealogical histories about Corc need have hurt no one.
7. In my first answer I sought neither to revile nor reproach, but merely to plead for my country here, without partiality of argument in violation of fact.
8. As for the indignation with which you boiled at receiving my first reply, to subdue the arrogance you show in your indignation would be almost to tame the sea.
9. You were not—so terrible is your zeal—satisfied with answering what I said. Neither love nor fear could restrain you from answering much which I did not say.
10. The result of your contention is that I shall defend myself against your recondite learning, and complete my first answer as the necessity has arisen.
11. I do not think that the last answer you have given,⁴ though learning fails you not—is any advantage for the case you are defending.⁵
12. Sparks are struck from the sides of rocks. By striking me do not draw ⁶ forth, O Lughaidh, any more of my speech. Very ⁷ lucky for you that you have not got ⁸ more.
13. What I should like best, O Lughaidh, for both fair branches of the one stock is that you ask from me no other answer, lest it be not a pleasant one.

14. Sgurr sri ead munab aíl lib · do fíor-tátaoir píl nÉibir
ní trát cóir dá ndiúltað dām · ní diúltað dóib tréð dochar.¹
15. Fpaeasra tnom dá dtairle² rinn · maic liom a fíor as
Éirinn
go bpozna pé dom fa deoir · nac dom tol é acé dom
am-déoin.
16. Níor éionnrgnar tátaoir clann sCuinn · ní fuil um fpaeasra
nomuinn
acé ní neam-nár don dá fuil · acé sri fearb-íad i eaduib.
17. Féad-ra a luatú do leat Cuinn · muna lór ar fár eadruinn
ní trát dár bfpaeasrai-ne fór · dáib ir eaglaige é-iontór.
18. Aitnir dām ir go nua a-nor · na sdoi lé n-iarraídoi m'amor
fíor a ríatáda ar a ríatá rin · i trát a n-iarraídoi ir aitnir.
19. An gcéin bíar cóir ar mo éil · ní dóig liom cáe dom élaodú
ní taob pe tollairbe duinn³ · comairge ar don ní iarraim.
20. Ná maor é-iontað um ašar · ná a n-oirbeice i n-ealaðain
an cóir dom éaob ó earla · ní dóig⁵ d'adon ar n-ašallma.
21. Fearr uatáð ní holc linne · i bpoair na píunne
ionáir iolair na hašar · pe cionar do éanamain.
22. Léispead raoré ar ron an éiré · liom do fpaeasra san
fírbéiré
geall m'eanagnaí ní fuige · um éann-bóga ar éruoiré.
23. Ní díot do díigfínn a íad · dá ngoirínn ainm bað adnár
acé curó dár labair dár leam · nac cabair duit a ndíeall.
24. An cíot éurpíó dá dteangtaib · bíar a fíor as éipeannéaib
somad fáta deig-fíon⁷ dām · tré neim-fíor sáda a sántar.
25. Ní ar ríatá ríéime mo dána · téigim d'iarrair eadúana
bíod⁸ dá éaob poi-neam-éair⁹ ruinn · claoon daig-féanéair
dá n-dearpuinn.
26. Díomur do láð nar leir-ne · raob adbar a ainmnigé
a íad go sCumdaigfínn ceiré · dal sáe ušair-éim¹¹ éipeacé.

¹ Tréð dochar in poem by T. McÓáire, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 185, v. 10, means "through your ill-plight," but this does not seem to suit here. For "churlishness," etc. cf. "Rí nar éurpíó. ar óuair," A. Ó Dálaig, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 236, v. 5. ² "Approach," "begin," (?) cf. "an cí léir éaigleas sáe tnué," A. Ó Dálaig, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 238, v. 7; "minic éarólim uair oile . leirge doine ir upnuigé: ar otaðall ran leirge linn . meiré m'anam dá n-aicnim," A. Ó Dálaig, TCD. H. 4, p. 88, v. 7. ³ (?) Ruinn MSS. cf. Var. Lect. For "tollairbe," cf. Contrib. sub. "airbe," and "dām ní taob pe t.," A. Ó Dálaig, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 287, v. 14. ⁴ VII. 5, 8, 10. ⁵ Cf. Var. Lect. For this use of dóig cf. "ní mó ir éipe íóib go fíorí . bair no. do éile cošaró," T. McÓáire, RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 22, v. 2; nac bað o. doimféar dá fuil," ibid., p. 30, v. 44; oibeargaig nac o. i oiríor," id., RIA. 23 L. 37, p. 206, v. 42; also infra XXX. 34. ⁶ VII. 9. ⁷ Cf. "sáe duabó dá n-ouabair mé . dár éarngair flait na féine: gealair fíon i noiaró duabó . do fíol bpuinn ar bapamail," T. McÓáire, RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 30, v. 45. ⁸ Or read "bí,"

14. Yet, if you will not cease reviling Eibhear's seed, it is not right that they (your fellows) should refuse me fair play. I will not refuse it to them owing to your churlishness.¹
15. If I give² you a severe answer I wish all Eire to know—so that it may serve me in the end—that it was not willingly I gave it but unwillingly.
16. I did not begin the abuse of Leath Cuinn. There is nothing in my answer hitherto except what need shame neither race, though it may not please you.
17. Have regard for Leath Cuinn, O Lughaidh, if you think that those who sprang from our side are a poor set. There is no failing of matter in our answer yet, while your history is a cause of nervousness to them (the North).
18. I know—again I say it—the shafts with which you would attack me. In the hour of attack too I know the way to shield myself so as to protect myself from them.
19. As long as justice is behind me, I think it unlikely that anyone can defeat me. I trust in no broken fence.³ I ask quarter from no man.
20. Boast not your hosts⁴ against me, nor their splendour of knowledge. As justice is on my side, to contend with me is not easy⁵ for any man.
21. Better are a few men with truth on their side—I at least prefer this—than many praising evil in opposition to truth.
22. I will let wise folk answer me in defence of truth, and will not hinder them. You shall not overcome my dexterity in using my bow drawn taut against a brawler.
23. Not of you should I be justified in using that word ("brawler"). It would be a shame for me did I so use it, but the zeal of some of your supporters is, I think, no advantage to you.
24. All the men of Eire shall know that the shower they (the Northerners) will pour forth from their tongues⁶ will bring fair-weather⁷ for me, owing to the unfairness of their speech.
25. Not on account of our poets' dignity do I ask for consideration. Let⁸ both sides treat me most ungently⁹ if I pervert true history.
26. As for your charging me with pride¹⁰ foolish is the reason for so calling me, namely because I said I would defend the truth. The man who has no authority in his side¹¹ must be satisfied with facts (?).

"be therefore most," etc. ⁹ Cf. "neam-éair an ináit mé maoréad . oo ríait reancáir raon-šaoiréal," p. ón Cánta, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 149, v. 5.
¹⁰ VII. 16. ¹¹ Cf. "oo óán fáann ir am-ušoar," p. ón Cánta, RIA. 23 E. 15, p. 185, v. 58.

27. Níom díompaic ne Dia a buidé . gíð ead aigneatú don-úine
um úail cápa 'r dom éuinſ-re . wána ar cáip a ſcornam-re.
28. Níom díultatúac ſibé beap . dom uaim i mbáit nó i mbpáit-
peap
um éeann na cópa éanait . níom ónna ne m'earcapait.
29. Ó naé u'puaé do élannduib Cair . do éaſaip turpa ar éaſaip
aéct do éaóib connailbe ó ſCuinn . comairſe úaóib ní tíult-
páinn.
30. Ní héaſcóip u'píop do ſaſma . cuíntúac ceipit úap n-aéapúa.
gíð ead ná cuíntúis aéct ceapit . lean a upúail dom oíueaéct.
31. ſuítim Cpíopt nap éana mé . ar ſpáú éaic peac a ééile
ſlóip pém linn bat díombuatú úam . díombuatn pinn ar an
paogal.

A LUſAÍÚ.

27. I am not contemptuous, thank God—whatever anyone think—of truth or of my duty. Two things which are just are what I defend (?).
28. I incline not to refuse anyone who is yoked with me in love or kinship concerning the interests of the truth which they uphold. I am not spiritless in face of my foe.
29. Since it is not in hatred of Cas' race, but in love of Conn's that you have so argued, I shall not refuse you mercy.
30. It is not unjust for one of your calling to uphold the right claims of your fatherland. Yet, defend merely their right claims. Follow, to that extent at least, what I teach you. (K).
31. I pray Christ that, in partiality, I may never say a word that would be a shame for me. A short time are we in this world.

an gcluime mé a mhic Dáire. luḡaíð ó cléirig ect.

1. An gcluime mé a mhic Dáire • eirð araili dár n-uráin-ne
ro cónclann an tann-ra ó tám • rann-ra i gcomērom do
comrāð.
2. Dámbeir náir cónclann cubaíð • leat féin inn doct ionnmáil
téro mar uairle o'fine Cuinn • nac dliḡe an uair-re ar
n-urruim.
3. Ór o'fíadaib ¹ airo-míog Mumán • do ríḡ éireann umluḡaíð
mar tá an t-ainm le féin b'feabail • a nḡairm féin ḡá
b'ileadāib.
4. ḡo b'feartar críoc ar ḡcainḡne • ná hiarreār ar n-urruim-ne
ar cónnailbe ná ar ḡaol ḡar • comairḡe ar don ní iarruāb.
5. Ní cuigim ḡo doicraíð rium • ar madoir o'oroeaēt oram
'r nac ur-dubad é ar m'fior • mé o'umluḡaíð doct oroir.
6. Má ruarar uair doimaim duit • aiceaēt ip mé i n-doir
foeluc ⁵
ḡo doirna a cara ar an ḡceart • ní raḡa m'umla ar t-aiceaēt
7. Nó ḡur labrair ar leit Cuinn • do biaíð dā n-éirḡeāð
eatoruinn ⁶
uirrim i n-ar n-dáin-ne deit • náire dā doiuillinn t'remheit. ⁷
8. Má dubar mar deire ro laoir • ní ar a doicraíð bar
doctaoir
aēt ḡlór féin ḡo n-annra orit • ní léir dām-ra ḡo n-dubar.
9. Sa n-aighear do b'éigean dām • má tá nac b'ionnntaoi ar
b'ogār
cuir dár b'ogair-ne ro fear • duit mo comairle ar cairdear.
10. Ní dearmad leat-ra aēt b'riḡ deaḡ • dom b'iaēraib bíod nar
tuillreāð
aḡ cora ar gcomairle ar air • ro-doiḡe ⁸ an roḡa ruḡair.
11. Tré ḡráð ó nac ḡabēar lat • comairle do cur orat
ar bar ḡcailḡ ó nac cuiream corḡ ⁹ • rḡuiream a t'arōḡ doo
teasarḡ.
12. ḡḡur doct aighear munab áil • ar m'imrōe nó ar m'fupáil
créāto uma n-abra tré fíoc • réāto nac doimā léo eirrioc.
13. A-dearēdoi nac dearmair trom • ar fíol ḡCuinn coirḡear
porlonn
'r do dān o'fíadāin it aḡaíð • náir an iarruāð anaḡail.

¹ Cf. "ḡrō o'fíadaib teāēt tarra," C. McDáire, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 32, v. 30. ² L. Foyle. ³ VIII. 29. ⁴ VIII. 30. ⁵ "foelac," early grade of poet. M. and C. ii., 217. ⁶ Cf. "do rala etorru," Vis. McCongl. (note). ⁷ "t'remheit," 3 Sg. cf. "o'eir cara ro dāin-ḡréire deit. lān-léire tana t," C. Mc an Baire, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 148, v. 22. ⁸ Noun or Compar. of "doiḡe," used as pos. ⁹ 8 syll. omit "bar"? ¹⁰ VIII. 30. ¹¹ VIII. 16.

[Answer to VIII].

1. Do you hear me, son of Daire ? Pay heed a little to my poem.
Since I am contending with you now, give me a fair share of your attention.
2. Were it the case that you thought the contest unworthy of you—we poets like yourself contending with you—since nobles of Conn's race advance against you, should you not now respect us ?
3. As it is the duty ¹ of the princes of Mumha to bow before the king of Eire—for that title (K. of E.) belongs to the warrior band of the Feabhal ²—their poets too have *their* title. (K).
4. Till the issue of our dispute be settled ask not submission from us. Neither for love nor for close kinship will I ask quarter from anyone.³
5. I do not think I could agree with the teaching which you boastfully propose ⁴ to give me, nor that it would not be a blot on my (fame for) wisdom to submit to your teaching.
6. Even if I, when a novice,⁵ got—I deny it not—lessons from you, my deference shall not be given to your teaching, my friend, till you descend to the level of truth.
7. Until you spoke against Conn's Half there would have been—had a dispute arisen between us ⁶—respect shown you in my poems, and I should have felt shame had I deserved shame owing to my poem.⁷
8. If, as you say in your poem, I have said aught whence you may be shamed—and not gentle words full of affection for you !—I cannot see that I did.
9. In the dispute which I had to undertake, though there may be some points in which you do not understand my words, you knew that some of my words were my advice given you in all friendship.
10. You made little account of my words though they did not deserve such treatment. In rejecting my advice you have taken a course that will prove painful ⁸ for you !
11. As you will not let advice be given you in love, and as we cannot check your bitterness,⁹ let us at least have done with your teaching.¹⁰
12. As you will not cease disputing either at my request or my command, why do you, in your rage, say things which in your instability you then deny having said ?
13. You say you did not revile ¹¹ Conn's race which checks oppression, though your own poem proves it against you !
Such an asking of quarter is a shame.

14. Dealbúcar lib mar leigear air . o' éir ar loitir dár laochraí
 poinn milre go¹ scéadaitb enir . nó réantair lib-re ar loitir.
15. Már o' iarrair rít go nua noir . réanar tú an trom do
 rónair
 ríot ar a íamail do ghéan . dom díon o' pálar a n-aibéar.
16. Gémao dearbúta as cáe a éion . air féin dá mbeir na
 breitíon
 níor fáir ran naom-éruinne neac . nac raorparóe i scár
 coiríteac.
17. Ó nac tís mar an dá rann . san beir díomúac dá ndearnram
 sibé trát bearn ar mbreac . leanao cáe ar an scoiríteac.
18. Níor féadair 'r do féao tura . san teagmáil ran tagra-ra
 acé t-úro ar fágaíl t-anma . dúib i n-anáir t-ealaóna.
19. Sibé cúir do éuar i bpaó . 'r nac fuair a ffreasra poimao
 dá n-éirde o' íb Cuinn mar cáe . níor buing doo éigre
 t-iomráo.
20. Créao tug ar do fréim poimáib . san déanam a ndearnoðair
 'r nac ainbhear fá íb táil tug . bar n-aighear dáib do
 dearmao.
21. Dá n-eaoráin do dúigreao dul . rean-íllac lias leannán
 Mumán
 an otug rin táir ar tórna . na dán a fíir m'asallma.
22. Do bmaépa troma ar tórna . dob' easail a n-ionnamla
 as luét easna dá ráo rinn . do ffreasra um láir³ dá
 léiginn.
23. A-dearúaoi ar maic a-muóa . m'fagaíl neit a-nalluna
 'r nac fuiginn acé a bfuair rinn . a scluinn uaid dá
 n-éiróinn.
24. Sibé ffreasra fuair daoió . ní do géall⁴ ar slóir díomaoim
 fíit uaim 'r ní do fúir roóair . dúin ná o' uail a healaóain.
25. Dá n-iarrúcar ar scáe doin-feair . díol tarceann a comaoineao
 ní cúir éasóair dam-ra a díol . annra ir éadóil ar n-airvo-
 ríog.⁵
26. Mar íoc i n-áit an troóair . téio a otagram u'ealaóain
 an méro-re díom ó oleasair . bíot ar m'éigre a áiteasao.

¹ Or "dó" (?). ² Cf. Contention of mac lias and mac coire, ZC. viii. 218. ³ Cf. XIV. 7; XXIII. 22; also "fa láir níor léis a éiomra,"

"undefended," T. McDáire, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 32, v. 26; "teacé le nim
 tnuít dom éinneao . fa úir lib ní léigimne," "unpunished," P. ón éainte,
 RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 149, v. 20. ⁴ Cf. "do síoll dom annuin," Táin bó
 fíaoic, RIA. Proc. 1870, p. 150, l. 19; also i ng. re, because of, P. H.,

14. You make up as a cure, after wounding our heroes, some honied verses—and some more wounds ! ¹ or you deny having wounded them at all !
15. If it be to seek peace anew that you deny the wounds you have inflicted, I too will make peace in the same way, defending myself by my words against your bitter attack.
16. Though a man's crime were proved home in the sight of all men, yet, if he were to be his own judge, never in the holy world was there a guilty man who would not be acquitted !
17. Since I cannot agree to both sides without incurring anger for what I should have done, whenever I give my judgment let everyone punish the offender.
18. I could not—though you could—have avoided this dispute, except for your anxiety to win a name on the score of your learning.
19. If you believe Leath Cuinn when it makes statements that have been public, and have never, till your time, been questioned, the making of such statements is no insult to your profession.
20. Why was it that your race before you never acted as you, since, I am sure, it was not ignorance about Tal's race that made them omit all that you say ?
21. To defend it (Tal's race) would have been the right of old Mac Liag,² the darling of Mumha. Did *he* revile Torna in his poem, my friend who arguest against me ?
22. As for your harsh words of Torna, I fear that similar ones would be addressed to me by learned folk if I left your answer unchallenged.³
23. You say that my seeking for facts in far antiquity was wasted energy, just as though I should have got the information I have got had I listened to you !
24. Any answer I made you I made not for the sake of foolish glory,⁴ nor to seek profit for myself, nor from pride of learning.
25. If every man must repay the benefits he has received it is just that I requite the love and benefits of my chiefs.⁵
26. As requital of these benefits is the lore I set forth. Since that is due from me, let the stating of it be set to the account of my professional duty.

and modern "maṛ ḡeall ar." ⁵"Δρο-πί," of chieftain, cf. RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 202, v. 23 ; G. 24, p. 34, v. 6.

27. Ili a scrut so macaò nomaiò . tug an fearò nac fuarothair
 do fheadsa ó cāc a' cara . gérò fáit easla é-ealaða.
28. Tnúit ré tóarrtúr ¹ do rocar . tug doib' r ní oíot ealaða
 ná easna don leit rof us . do fheadsa um leit mar léigro.
29. Sibé oíob nar labair liom . baosal oim-ra má aicnionn
 ardoi ar tóiréigte i-né nó a-níob . ní léigfe mé do maoirdeam.
30. Diaò an dóir mar airm aige . teact um éirio ir uraíoe
 feirroe a prairinn dá bfaða fear . a faða airm i n-éigean.

an sClume.

¹ Tóarrtúr, Pret. Pass, but possibly also 1 Sg. of Pret., cf. Introd.

27. It was not fear lest their power might yield to yours (?) that caused the long period in which you got no answer from anyone, however terrible you think your wisdom !
28. It was jealousy of the rewards which I have got, ¹ that caused them not to answer. It was not lack of lore, nor was it learning that kept them away so that they leave your reply unanswered.
29. If any of these, who have not spoken for me, see me in danger, then—though I am unsupported yesterday and to-day—he will not let me be crowed over by you.
30. Truth will be his weapon. That makes it the easier to fight for me. Better is a man's fight if he has the better weapon.

ná cagail labra a luðaró. 'pear feasa ón cáinte cct.

1. Ná cagail labra a luðaró · rðaoil lét feirð a haraðain
beit neimneac ðero gion sup ðluis¹ · leis a teinn-peac léo
teangaró.
2. Corail ar do élaðaró fir · cuapðais aigéan gac oirir
bí leir an ðtaob ðaigðear² rib · gaoi ná caipðear ná cumnið.
3. Ná mínið rinn do ro-gur⁴ · ná ceil éacé ná falðanar
féac do leaðra roðair ronn · coðuis fealða na rðor-
clann.
4. Déine do ðiceall ðuit féin · ó do corðrair don céro-
féim
ar féaðaðair do ráð ruinn · glár⁶ ar éaðamain ionuinn.
5. Ná cuir do comaoin bpeige · do láðair mo leicéide
ná glan do pai-ðionta rinn · ðaíh ir aicðionta é-inntinn.
6. A luðaró gró linn tura · ní ar rðac rðeite t'fialura
ná ar do comairce trá ir-tis · a-tá oll-aicme éibir.
7. Maicim ðuit Dia dá maicéim · na ruigle nac ríorðarðear
do éaðair don éruir-rin Cuinn · níor ðuiris fálaid eadruinn.
8. Deaðaró pe⁹ bun do rpeime · cuapðuisró bar gcaicrpeime
ar raob-acmaib ní cóir cion · caomantair glóir na
nðaróiol.
9. Mar ar feairr ar éroir lib · laðuis roðra ril éibir
tairð a loc pearða ná fill¹⁰ · ná loc ðearða do ðicill.
10. Méaðuisðear leac a lor báro · már í an cóir már í an
éagðair
rðaoil ir comraíma clann gCuinn · a mbarr roðnamá a
bpearuinn.
11. Ar ceannac ná ar bpeit le báro · pearam í n-aigðear
éagðair
peirðm ðeacrað a meic míc Con · 'r ir peacáð ðeit a
ðéanam.
12. Gró ead ní féaðarðear lib · gé taoi ag ðéanam do ðicill
cur éin-fir ðar lurð tar linn · ór fuil éibir í n-éirinn.
13. Slíoét eoðain míoir móraio mionn¹¹ · rlioét cormaic áair
míc Oilioll
leo cuapc-anáir ðanða ðpeağ · uacðraim maicne Mileað.¹²

¹ For "ðluis," cf. Contrib.; also "ní ró gér o. a caoine . ar mó foil ar
n-éagcaoine," "ná céim ar ðoirce ðluisge," p. ón cáinte, RIA. 23 L. 17,
p. 149, v. 28. ² K. II. 348. ³ ðaigðear, ðaigðear MSS. ⁴ Cf. "rároce na
bpeleað go ngur," RIA. 23 G. 21, p. 171, v. 7; Eriu, v. 148, 41. ⁵ ronn, here
(Munster?). ⁶ Text corrupt? ⁷ VII. 6, 14. ⁸ VII. 4. ⁹ Deanam
í n-, pe, le, rpi and pa. ¹⁰ Cf. "ná fill ó focal éroe," S. mc an ðairto,

[Answer to VII. v. 22 implies that no Southern had yet helped Tadhg.]

1. Spare not your speech, O Lughaidh. Give free rein to your wrath. Though your spitefulness is uncalled for,¹ give full course to your tongue.
2. Sleep on your wisdom-wattles.² Search the abyss of lore. Stick to the side you study (?).³ Regard not kith or friendship.
3. Tame not thy ire⁴ against us. Disclose crimes and feuds. Read privilege-books.⁵ Defend the possessions of the free tribes.
4. Do the best you can for yourself, since you have destroyed at its root all that you have been able to say is thought among us to be shallow enough.⁶
5. Try not to persuade people like me of your pretended kindness.⁷ Defend not your great crimes. I know your disposition.
6. O Lughaidh, though you have ties⁸ with us, Eibhear's great race seeks not cover beneath the shield of your kinship, nor depends on your clemency.
7. I pardon you—may God, too, pardon you!—for your words that shall be proved false. The help you gave to Conn's race has not awakened strife between them and us.
8. Keep⁹ to the true history of your stock. Search your battle-lists. One should not respect degenerate races. Let the glory of the Gaedheal be ever defended.
9. Belittle, as far as you can, the benefits conferred by Eibhear's race. Strive ever to harm them. Cease not from that.¹⁰ Do not stop at the very dregs of your efforts.
10. Exaggerate in your boasting—with truth or without it—the pride and triumph of Conn's race, their greater services, the blessings of their land.
11. Whether for money or from partiality, to stand upon an unjust cause is a hard thing, O son of Mac Con, and it is a sin too!
12. Yet, though you do your best, you shall not be able to put any of those, who have come over the sea, above Eibhear's race in Eire.
13. To the race of great Eoghan who revere an oath,¹¹ to the race of Cormac Cas, son of Oilioll—the chiefs of Mile's race, belongs the honour-circuit of Eire.

RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 148, v. 7; "ná fill raobair do meácta . ó neac ó'uaireib é-oimeácta," C. McOáime, Trans. Gael. Soc. 1808, p. 26, l. 137; Wind. Wört.
¹¹ minn MSS. cf. "bair blieróeasrom náir éairó minn," E. McCraicé, RIA. 23 M. 24, p. 27, v. 16; "a míoš-buimeac náir éairó (MS. cas) minn," A. Ó Óálaig, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 280, v. 9. ¹² Faulty rime.

14. Δ ζκομπεαρτα ιρ cuiñneac linn · leo an urpuinn ar fearr
o'Éipunn
meartar iao trá ar a otreabaid · 'r a-tá riao na rinnearaid.
15. Oo tuirmeac uata ioir¹ · mār² bairr é ar a n-oirneoin
o'uarle a gcinrō dā gcrarōib féin · naonh ir filrō ir
firéin.
16. Uiarra a ríot fearb a gcozao · uata trā ní ceaptozao
oirbearc³ zairzrō azur glōir · toirbearc airzrō ir onōir.
17. Domaim zur maiē maicne Cuinn · nior mīroe iao dā
n-abpuinn
oo mūin a réim-féilbe rin · ar bpuil n-Éibir-ne uairōib.
18. Mí rtiúram le rtaoil gcomrāo · bréas ná oil ná
iomarbdāo
mo flān fa confarō ó gCuinn · ní rār orēaid oo
fearrann.⁴
19. Ná cailr-re⁵ ar cineaō Carēais · a luzaio ro labarēaid
ní mó ar cailrte ar íb ūrain ūreaz · na noiaio ir ploinnre
a róirear.
20. Mí facar leat ro leit Cuinn · buaio ar laoiō-ne a lor
comluinn
tar ceann bair neam-unla a-nioō · ná zeall ealaōna ar
n-éigreao.
21. Az clor linn iona laraip · oo fpreazra oéin oócarais
cúir mazao an méio-re oí · ná bazair ē-éigre oirne.
22. Mí ríot cuioizēte tá ar tēaz · an trémhre atā i n-eaparo
aēt nac éizniētir é féin · 'r é rna céro-flizētib comi-léir.
23. Atā az marōm trā Mac Oáire · tuile éigre anbdáile
ar uēt na tuile ir teann mé⁶ · ir fearr duine ná oaoine.
24. I leit an éirir cúirear roin · rraoineaō iomairzrō oiaio
dā mbao uiaa a ór dāna · móir tuba⁷ bair oteazbāla.⁸
25. Muna noearntar éigzeart air · a lor tñūta i otaoib
eaznaiz
ní taru rār oo na raorōib · 'r baō flān tēaz oo
tēazoirib.
26. Urimōr a labarēar lat · oo beir acpuinneac uarat
mar rēōr ná bazair i bōr · zrō móir azaid a n-iomur.

¹ ioir generally after negative.² "mā" = "as," cf. Voc. sub. ríor.³ Cf. Cont. "airbert."⁴ ūeapunn MSS.⁵ Cf. "ná cail ar mūre

a-māin," RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 265. v. 4.

⁶ Cf. Voc. "zeall," also:

"zeall zac oirre taoib re taoib · mar puair dongur mac amlaoid:

zeall zac ríoz-daimna ruiz rin · ar puo pionn-aōba Éibir." p. ón Éáinte,

RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 202, v. 40

⁷ VII. 5. 6.⁸ VII. 16.⁹ Cf. "i gceapto-

cain na gceap noorēao · oo rziamar rzot m'ealaōan: a huēt a oirre

ar teann rinn · na hoire oo b'fearr o'Éipunn," p. ón Éáinte, RIA. 23 E.

14. Their origin we hold in remembrance. To them belongs the choice half of Eire. Let them be judged from their tribes since they are the ancestors of those tribes.
15. There sprang from them ¹ to complete ² the respect which the nobility of their stock should have for the race, saints and poets and faithful souls (?).
16. Pleasant was their peace, fierce their fighting. Never was wanting in them the practice of valour,³ and glory, the bestowing of gifts, and honour.
17. I admit Conn's descendants are good. They would be none the less good were I to put above them our Eibhear's stock owing to its fair endowments !
18. I strive not with pride of speech to invent falsehood or calumny or contentious argument. I defy the rage of Conn's race. I shall not, however, put ⁴ contempt on you.
19. Do not forget in your poems, O Lughaidh, Carthach's race,⁵ or the sons of Brian of the Breagha too, and the races of their younger brothers.
20. Never in Leath Cuinn was seen by you anyone to surpass our heroes in battle,—in spite of your unwillingness to admit it—nor any learning to surpass our sages.⁶
21. As we listen to your answer flaming with fierce self-confidence, that part of it (about your learning) makes us laugh. Do not threaten your poets on us ! ⁷
22. It is not that Tadhg has none to aid him ⁸ now that he is engaged in this struggle, but he is not hard-pressed, and that, too, evident from the start.
23. Indeed Mac Daire is pouring forth, a torrent of terrific learning. In that torrent I am confident.⁹ One man is better than (your) many.
24. In defence of the truth he inflicts on you a rout in conflict. Even if his poetic adornments be mere brass ¹⁰ great is the overthrow ¹¹ of your attack ! ¹²
25. Unless he be unfairly used owing to your jealousy of him as a sage—he never treated poets with contempt—let Tadhg go free from your insults.
26. As for the majority (of Northern poets) who are said by you to be superior ¹³ to you, do not threaten them as your reserves on us, however wonderful you think their learning.

15, p. 181, v. 15. ¹⁰ VII. 12. ¹¹ *tuḡa* MSS., cf. V. 10 (note). ¹² Cf. "*ar rōn a easorāna ar . ar scōr ceasbāla um ceasbāis*," *τ. mēoāipe*, RIA.
23 C. 18, p. 66, v. 4. ¹³ VII. 5.

27. Comairliḡ do éairde féin · do tādḡ ní heagat oilbéim
 nó go dtí dé cāc doo éorḡ · go pé ní trút dā tēagars.
 28. Dā mbeāt trom aise orim-ra · pa éirteāct na n-anḡlonn-ra
 níor beíte trā ro-ḡroo rum · a-tā bar ḡcomras comērom.
 29. Tus tādḡ doin-freagḡa oruib · luēt freagḡa an taoib
 tallamuin
 áct a ḡaor-ḡáō ¹ muin ar muin · ní fuil áct don-dān aḡaib.
 30. Má tā don foilcear aḡaib · le noētaō do nuāō-baḡair
 ar ḡḡáō ē'anma abair roin · 'r ná caḡail labḡa a luḡaib.

nā caḡail.

¹ ḡaor- possibly can be used for ríor-? cf. XXIX. 19.

27. Give advice to your own friends—Tadhg need not fear your insults—until the result will be that they will stop you! Hitherto there is no need of your instructing Tadhg.
28. If he blamed me for listening (in silence) to these disputants it were not fitting to be hasty with me, (as) your contest is equal.
29. One answer Tadhg gave you all, the disputants on your side over there (in North). You have only one thing to say except that you keep boldly ¹ repeating it over and over!
30. If you have any hidden argument so as to develop a new attack on us, for the love of your reputation give it to us, and spare not your speech, O Lughaidh!

CRÉAD FÁ DÚÁ TAOḶS IS LUḶARḶ. MATḶSAMAIN Ó
NĪPEARNĀIN CÉT.

- I. CRÉAD FÁ DÚÁ TAOḶS IR LUḶARḶ · RḶATAD 'R FOIMAD DĒAL-
BUḶARḶ ¹
DO CINN NEART ADĪAL OPPA · PEACÉT ḶAN ADĪAR EATORPA.
2. NĪ LEO FÁ PAOIR ADÉT POINN BEAS · RĒACÉTA NA BFLAIC FÁ
BḶUILEAD
ḶANN ⁴ IR-TEAC ÉAIMḶS ÉAIRA · FÁ LEAC ÉALL DON TALAM-PA.
3. ÉIBEAR MĀR É BA FINE · NÓ ÉIREAMÓN OPPA-RĒE ⁵
RḶÉAL NAC MÓRDE MO MEADAIR · TRÉAN ÓIGE 'NA N-OIGREADAIR.
4. CLUINRÓ IR CPERORÓ AR DON · MO RḶÉAL MAIC A DĀ MACAOM
A DUTRIALL A ÉARḶS IR LUḶARḶ · MAIRḶS NAC CIAN Ó DĒUALADAIR.
5. DO BĪ AN CAT 'R AN RIONNAC PEAL · LÉ CÉILE I ḶCUMAIN DAINḶEAN
AS REILS FĪADAIḶS IR ÉANLAIC · FÁ LEIRḶS DĪAMAIR D'POIBÉALAIḶS. ⁷
6. FĪIC PEATA MUICE MEAPA · LEO RAN CŌILL FÁ COMINEAPA
BPART NA TUIRCE DON D'POINḶS OIL ⁸ · I POINN NA MUICE MÉICE. ⁸
7. ROINN AR AR ÉUIPEADAR CIAN · AN IOT ⁹ DON TRÉAN ÓN TRÓIREAR
FÁ BĪOḶS MÓRDE NA DĒIRE · NĪOR DĪOL ¹⁰ ÓIGE AN FĪEIR-PE.
8. I N-DOIR AN ÉAIT CUMÉAR LEIR · CÉAD BLADAN BRÉAS AN IREIR
TÉRO AN RIONNAC RUAR Ó FOIN · I ḶRUAR BĪONNAC ¹¹ AR
BRÉASAIḶ.
9. DO CUM AN RIONNAC A RUM · PE PAE TEACÉT CĪOIRT I ḶCOLAINN
ḶPEROM DON IOT LÉ ¹² NĪOR LÉIGEAD · CĪOIC NĀRḶ É ¹³ NĪORḶ
FOIRÉIGEAN.
10. TIS ONCŪ UAIḶREAC ALLAR · ÉUCA MAP DO ÉUALAMAIR
NAR DONḶUIḶS D'AOIR ACA POIN · ḶAOIR NĪ FACA NA N-DOIRAIḶ.
11. COILÉAN BOPB BLADONA ḶO LEIC · NACAR ḶÉILL D'AOIR FĪR
ADĪBREIC ¹⁴
LEIR AR MIRE AN IOT 'R AN FEOIL · ÓN CINE ¹⁵ D'FĪOC ¹⁶ IR D'AM-
DEOIN.
12. DAPAMAIL ¹⁷ DO DĒIRUM DĪ · IAC ÉIREANN IOT NA MUICE
CĪOIC NA RĪOM-ÉUR DĒIORM-ḶLAN DTE · NĪ MIONḶNAD IOMÉNĪD
IMPE.
13. 'S IAD RO AN RIONNAC IR AN CAT · TAOḶS LUḶARḶ LĀN LEOR
D'iomlAC
ḶLEIC NA RUAD RAOḶ AN COḶAD · DOAD AR DON ḶÉ FUAIRADAR.

¹ Line corrupt? ² The English? Cf. XXX. 26. ³ About rights of seniority?

⁴ Cf. use of "ḶABĀLTAR," XV. 132; also "DĀ NUA-POINN ḶAN DĪRLE ÓN OIRING ·
TAPAM DON CĪIC-PE CONUILL," "two new sets of invaders," S. MC AN
DĪRO, RIA. 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 12. ⁵ = OPPA and FĪOE (emphat. particle) (?).

⁶ TRÉ O, AN O. MSS. ⁷ Cf. OROBÉT. Wind. Wört. Rime faulty. ⁸ Corrupt?

⁹ Cf. O'Don. Suppl. 12; Quiggin, Dialect of Donegal, pp. 45, 70; Laws,
Gloss. itha, itharna; Vis. McCongl; Z.C. iii., 218-36. ¹⁰ For uses of "DĪOL"

cf. "DO D. D'FĪOR-MOLTAIB IONNAIB," T. MC DĪRPE, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 130, v. 14;

"NĪ FĪUL MO DĪOL D'ANĀIR ANN," id. RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 22, v. 24; "DO ḶEIB A D.

1. What are Tadhg and Lughaidh about. . . . (?) overpowering (might ² has conquered them. Law ³ has no meaning now for them.
2. They possess, alas ! only a little part (of the land), the princes about whom they dispute. An invasion ⁴ has come in on them in that portion of this land.
3. Whether Eibhear was the elder among them or Eireamhon—alas ! my joy is none the greater. Great is the folly in their heirs.⁶
4. Listen, and believe too, my good story, ye two young men ! A pity you heard not long ago their story, O Tadhg and Lughaidh !
5. A cat and a fox were once joined in strong affection, hunting game and birds over the tangled pathless ⁷ hill.
6. A nice mast-fed pig was found by them in the wood next them. (?) in the division of the fat pig.
7. The sharing, on which they fixed, was “the fat ⁹ to the elder rather than to the younger,” solemnised by the oaths of them both. Not fair ¹⁰ to youth was that judgment !
8. In stating his age the cat makes it out a hundred years—a lying story. The fox goes back beyond that, deceiving ¹¹ by lies in his difficulty.
9. The fox puts their (his ancestors’) age before the Incarnation. Not a bit of the fat was left on her (the pig). No other period of time would have settled the matter.
10. There comes a haughty proud wolf up to them, as we heard, who did not agree to the ages of either of them. He saw no force in their ages.
11. A rough wolf-cub a year and a half old who paid no respect to the age of a fool.¹⁴ By him is torn off instantly the fat and the flesh from the pig ¹⁵ by force ¹⁶ and violence.
12. I am giving you a parable.¹⁷ The land of Eire is the fat of the pig. No wonder there should be rivalry for the land of the smooth dry fair comfortable mansions.
13. The fox and the cat are Tadhg and Lughaidh given to abuse. The fight of the sages is a foolish squabble—though they have both come to trouble owing to it.

ḡláir-ḡíona,” ḡ. ón Cáinte, RIA. 23 N. 11, p. 166, v. 34 ; “ ḡoinn síola dom ḡán so ḡíad,” “ ḡr é ḡr monca ḡr ḡr mó síol,” ḡ. Ó ḡáldais, RIA. 23 D. 13, p. 27, vv. 1, 4. ¹¹ “ Deceitful,” cf. “ ḡ ḡmonnais ḡn ḡ ḡmonnais,” ḡ. ón Cáinte, RIA. 23 M. 16, p. 80, v. 6. ¹² RIR MSS. ¹³ ḡríoc na ré MSS. ¹⁴ ? ḡar . . . ḡinḡreitead, ḡnḡreite MSS. Cf. “ anfeth ” Contrib. ¹⁵ Sine MSS. Cf. Wind. Wört ; Magh Rath, p. 58 ; “ ḡrí céad tinne,” Poem “ ḡ eolá muidan,” TCD. 1281, v. 13. ¹⁶ Cf. Wind. “ fích,” and Laws, Gloss. ¹⁷ Cf. “ ḡarḡail síleat soib ḡo . ḡn ḡruit bíor ḡan ḡrann ḡléarad,” ḡ. the ḡáire, RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 28, v. 16.

14. Ráð na n-ollamh ná héirio pír . an Sall-ós onéú an áitir
 do cuir pé a gcinnpeal¹ ó éion . 'r é ar rinnpeap 'r ar
 róiipeap.
15. Ní tásnam leat a luḡaró . ná pe Tadó pé oṡaplabair
 fá oṡasnam ní tṡuall éum táir . ciall a n-abnam ip easpáin.
16. Urobaó² leabair eipis ar . a luḡaró oáir léir eolair
 oéanairó fuaraó ná tairis tṡoio . 'r ip³ o'uamhan táiró
 a-támairó.

CRÉAD FÁ OTÁ.

¹ "Bragging," etc., "ambition." Cf. O'Grady, Cat., p. 555, where the word occurs three times; cf. "cinnpúlac" "inquisitive" which may be from

14. Listen not to the words of these sages. The foreign soldier is the conquering wolf. He set no store on their pride.¹ He is the younger and the elder too.
15. I do not argue with you, Lughaidh, nor with Tadhg, with whom you are engaged. The meaning of my words is not to reproach you. Their object is peace-making.
16. Give up the scribbling of books,² O Lughaidh to whom all lore is known. Calm thyself. Seek not quarrel. It is owing to (our) fear of Tadhg (destroying you) that we are (entreating you).

this word. (Sheehan, Seán-éadaint na n'Óéire).
O'R. ? b'roḃ ḃo, MSS. ³ MSS. r'ar.

² " b'roḃaim," " I stain,"

AN TUIRSEAC TAOI A LUĞAID. EOĞAN MCCRAIT cct.

1. An tuirseac taoi a luğaid · bñónac òuit a noubramaip
do nam-òil-re ní fáct foir · na-tuirpe ar éac ar éanaip.
2. Do rğaoilip rğannail ġaoirdeal · raobad céille a ġcom-
maoirdeam
nó ip meirge feirge roo fiod · meirpe ar ġceirto-ne ġan
cuimhriod.
3. Munab ionniuin ġarpad ġall · maipz do maoir mon ² ná
meapball
ġo lóip'falctanar ip o'feall · ar ríóġ n-art-amar n'éirpeann.
4. Do leantaoi le labra cair · rñáite ríodamail reancaip
le luict ġiġe ríom-ġnáiġ Té · 'r a ġiġe o'ór-rñáiġ éiġre.
5. ġréar ³ do ġiġearz ⁴ porz nó rann · bad cairt le clannaib
clon-ġall
bad fiaðain coirde ar ar ġcol · na ġaġail foirbte ó uġoar.
6. Ceit ġac maiteapa a maoirdeam · ná tuġ ġeall roo ġréar-
laoirdeat
Clóġ é'raobair i n-eaġna éaiġ · maoluiġ do f'reaġra ġonnn-
áiġ.
7. Do bainfead do baġar ríó · comráġ a clocaib caoos
bad déirdean le boðar balb · dá n-éirdeat t'foġar ac-ġarb.
8. Ní éarpeair dá éarba a éarbz · mār lib láġair an iomairz
il-beadġad ip ac na b'ear · t're imdearġad mac mileat.

AN TUIRSEAC.

¹? MSS. nesim-cf. oag—. ²“mon,” “guile,” O'R. Dict. cf. monac Toch. Em. (K. Mey.) 7, (note). ³For uses of “ġréar,” cf. “ġréar maipbnaiġe mic ġic airġ. dáimad beo an t-oirdeoiriðairc: ro rnoiġirde na ġréarġlan. ġréar bad rğoiġ-
ġile rğiamad,” f. ón éainte, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 202, v. 31, “ná cum ro ġréar
ġaoirdeilge,” m. Ó ġipearñáin, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 95, v. 2; “rñáiġe ġearip ro
ġréir t'pláimac,” “o'ér capa ro óáin-ġréire veit. láin-léire tana t'reimeit,”
ġ. ġic an baip, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 148, vv. 19, 22; “ní ġléar copnam leat ar
leat. rán ġġréir n-om-poin acġ inneac,” f. ón éainte, RIA. 23 E. 15,
p. 185, v. 60. ⁴Cf. “il-éaríra r'apa ré n-air. ġiġearz aamā an iomair,”

[vv. 1, 8 would suggest that Lughaidh had been silent for some time. As no other Northerners are mentioned I have put it before McArthur's, etc., poems].

1. Are you tired, Lughaidh? Annoying to you have been our words. Not want of will¹ has made you cease, but because your poems have wearied everyone.
2. You have made public the scandals of the Gaoidhil. It was perverseness of mind in you to speak of them, or intoxication of anger that enraged you. Our profession is the worse for want of restraint.
3. Unless you love the foreign hosts, woe to you for telling of guile² and error, with much hate and treachery, about the host of the noble soldiers of Eire.
4. In smooth language the silken threads of history used to be traced by the disputants of Te's chief home (K), weaving it through with a golden thread of poetry.
5. Composition³ of rhetoric,⁴ poems or verses would be thought a charter by the treacherous foreigners. It would be thought a witness for ever to our crime, a perfect standard set by a good author.
6. Boasting of good qualities results in their being denied. Set not too much store on your artful composition. In the knowledge possessed by all lies the blunting of your over-zeal. Lessen the keenness of your sharp answer.
7. The threats you have uttered would draw speech from the stones of hills. A deaf mute would be disgusted to listen to your rough words.
8. O! Tadhg, if the field of battle remains in your possession, you have not secured⁵ much benefit from the terrifying and wounding of heroes, seeing that the sons of Mile have been brought to shame.⁶

p. ón Cáinte, RIA. 23 E. 15, p. 181, v. 3; cf. Magh Rath, p. 154. ⁵ Cf. "τάρτεuir cáρ νεάμρατα Δ-νορ . βάρ το θεαξ-ήλατα τουτέαιρ," τ. μετ'αίμε, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 32, v. 36. ⁶ Initial word not repeated.

measa a tair̃s do t̃asraib f̃eim. R. mc ARTÚIR,
O.S.F., cct.

1. Measa a t̃air̃s do t̃asraib f̃eim · ioná Torna i n-ašar̃ó Néill
'r ir mó do t̃asraib ar̃ Corc · níor̃ ðlig̃ir Torna o'ēasnađ.
2. I n-ašar̃ó meac̃ta na rean · do t̃ōs̃bair̃ béim ar̃ an b̃reap
šá¹ ráo nár̃ cúim̃neac̃ an éiall · aš t̃asra ođ re poi-miall.
3. ðlig̃im̃ro šibé ní deapa · ur̃p̃um̃ d̃ar̃ raoĩc̃ib̃ reana
aet̃ muna fol̃lur̃ a mb̃reás · ar̃ f̃ir̃-éar̃c̃ oá mbẽit̃ com̃éac̃.
4. Mar̃ riñ šomađ cor̃m̃uil̃ d̃uit̃ · šañ aoñ ãit̃ir̃ do t̃abair̃c̃
a m̃ic̃ Dáire do Torna · file reañda raor̃-ērom̃da.
5. Éas̃c̃oir̃ mar̃ do rá̃r̃deac̃ leat̃ · nac̃ deap̃na oíceall̃ ná ear̃c̃
bíod̃ nac̃ i añ Mum̃ha meap̃da · r̃ođ buñar̃ a šeineam̃na.
6. T̃asra fl̃im̃⁴ élaoiñ-b̃reac̃ le báir̃ · níor̃ šnác̃ o'ēis̃rib̃ l̃nñre
ráil̃
ba ceap̃da añ r̃poñs̃ níor̃ do tim̃ · ba móir̃ a meap̃ i ñéir̃inñ.
7. Níor̃b̃ ioñs̃nac̃ do r̃ioš̃aib̃ ráil̃ · a móir̃-meap̃ r̃iam̃ ar̃ añ
ñoám̃
mãit̃ do t̃uill̃ a mb̃eapa oáib̃ · a b̃ruair̃reac̃ uac̃a o'āñar̃.
8. Šañ f̃eac̃aiñ do mãic̃ne šaol̃ · caom̃ñuro r̃iam̃ ear̃c̃e šac̃ aoiñ
šibé oíob̃ nac̃ oioñs̃nac̃ ro · ní hé Torna nac̃ deap̃na.
9. ðlig̃ir̃ šac̃ neac̃ a éaom̃na · šac̃ cúir̃ oá mb̃i ar̃ a t̃aoba
ar̃ ioñc̃aib̃ Torna do bí · t̃asra Cuir̃c̃ r̃ur̃ añ ãir̃o-r̃í.
10. Dob̃' or̃e r̃ór̃ doñ oir̃ f̃ear̃ · Torna bá̃dač̃⁵ nár̃ élaoñ b̃reac̃
ní com̃ráo ar̃ a b̃ruil̃ t̃laet̃ · nac̃ oioñs̃nac̃ do Corc̃ oú̃ēraet̃.
11. Mãit̃ do t̃asair̃ ar̃ a r̃oñ · luš̃ar̃ f̃ear̃ac̃ mac̃ m̃ic̃ Con
do deap̃b̃ nac̃ eas̃la ná báir̃ · t̃už Torna tim̃ ra t̃eas̃b̃ail̃.
12. Oám̃ađ báir̃ r̃ór̃ do b̃eap̃ađ · a ñdeap̃na r̃oiñ do oéañam̃
šibé mar̃ do šéañađ Corc̃ · níor̃ ðlig̃ t̃ura é o'ēas̃nac̃.
13. níor̃ ðlig̃ Torna m̃ár̃ r̃ior̃ d̃uit̃ · caom̃na ear̃c̃e r̃inñr̃ir̃ Cuir̃c̃
cúim̃neac̃ mar̃ riñ éiall̃ añ f̃ir̃ · šañ oíceall̃ oóib̃ do oéim̃m̃.
14. Do b̃reac̃ f̃eim̃ oúim̃ñ oá deap̃b̃ađ · m̃ár̃ iñc̃ẽr̃oet̃e do lãb̃rađ
caom̃na a mãic̃ne f̃eim̃ am̃áiñ · ðlig̃ir̃ éis̃re i ñ-iom̃ar̃b̃ar̃.
15. Ní c̃uiz̃im̃-re m̃ár̃ r̃ior̃ ro · ađb̃ar̃ t̃-ēas̃naiš̃ ar̃ Torna
ađb̃ar̃ ēas̃naiš̃ ir̃ léir̃ leam̃ · op̃aib̃-re aš éis̃rib̃ éireanñ.
16. M̃ár̃ r̃ior̃ a ñ-ab̃ar̃c̃ar̃ lib̃ · oic̃ ioñc̃aib̃ r̃ur̃ na héis̃rib̃
'r̃ nac̃ i¹⁰ a-m̃áiñ a mãic̃ne f̃eim̃ · do níod̃ añ éis̃re o'ois̃-r̃eir̃.
17. Ní mãit̃ do t̃ōs̃bair̃ mar̃ b̃r̃eiz̃ · 'r̃ ní l̃or̃ mar̃ t̃asraib̃ a t̃air̃s̃
šo õt̃už r̃ór̃ar̃ o'ēib̃ear̃ f̃ionñ · r̃oinñ lẽit̃e o'lñir̃ éireanñ.

¹ MSS. aš. ² III. 2. ³ III. 33, etc. ⁴ Cf. "mar̃b̃ar̃o r̃í ní fl̃im̃ a m̃im̃ · añ t̃í ar̃ a r̃ill̃ oá r̃úil̃ib̃," C. McDáire, RIA. 23 D. 14, p. 135, v. 34; or "smooth," "insidious," cf. 3 Sh. ⁵ Or "b̃ášac̃" "quarrelsome"? ⁶ Cf. "ear̃c̃ r̃ẽr̃ ñoam̃s̃iñ-oíñ oú̃ēraet̃," A. Ó Dálaigh, RIA. 23 G. 27, p. 192, v. 3. ⁷ IV. 41, 43. ⁸ Because Torna was not of Mumha originally. ⁹ III. 2. ¹⁰ é MSS. ¹¹ III. 6, 7.

[Answers III., refers to IV., and previous to XV. (Cf. XVIII. 8)].

1. Worse than Niall's, Tadhg, is your argument against Torna, and greater claims have you made for Corc. You should not have reviled Torna.
2. Against the laws of the ancients you attacked that hero, saying that when he spoke with mighty Niall ² it was an ill-considered thing.
3. Whatever you say, we should, if we mean to uphold justice, honour our ancient sages unless they clearly lie.
4. Thus, it beseems you, son of Daire, not to revile Torna the ancient noble weighty poet.
5. It was wrong of you to say he did not do his best or his duty, even though active Mumha was not his original country.³
6. Poor argument and biased judgment were not the habit of the poets of Inis Fail. They were a just race and not weak. Great was their honour in Eire.
7. No strange thing in the kings of Fal was the honour they ever gave poets. Well did the poets' character merit the honour they got.
8. Without regard for their own kin, they preserve the charters of all. Whichever of them did not do this, Torna failed not to do it.
9. Everyone has the right to defend the cause of those on his side. Under the protection of Torna (to back it) were spoken Corc's words to the High-King.
10. Torna the affectionate,⁵ straight in judgment, was teacher to the two heroes. It is not seemly to say that he would not have said all he could ⁶ for Corc.
11. Lughaidh son of Mac Con argued well for Torna, proving it was not fear or love that made him weak in the dispute.⁷
12. If it was love (for Niall) that made him so act, however Corc might have acted you had no right to abuse Torna.
13. Torna had no right, according to you, to defend the rights of Corc's ancestors.⁸ It was thus a happy thought of him not to do his best for them!
14. Your own statement is there to prove that—if we are to believe you—the duty of poets in contention is to defend merely their own race.⁹
15. Thus I do not see why you revile Torna. Reason for reviling you it is clear to me the poets of Eire have.
16. If what you say be true one could never trust poets, as, in fact, it was not only their own folk whom they served.
17. It was unwise of you to challenge as false—and badly have you proved it false—that his younger brother gave Eibhear half of Eire.¹¹

18. Dámao ó oigheadt achar • do baid realb Éireann aca
rinnreap do baó cuirte i ruim • ó fóireap o'fásáil fearainn.
19. Sinnreapact ní tuzann ceapc • ar tír dá bfaschar le neapc
calmaet na bfeap ar ceapc ann • ir ní haoroadt fear
n-anbpann.
20. Ní burdeac ar beitte díot • o'fuil Éibir fa t-áireamh ríog
• a n-éacta rochair a rean • ní rochar dóib id o'áireamh.
21. Sochair banba ó fuil Éibir • a n-áireamh do baó céillir
áireamh a ríog do b'é a leap • dá nreapntaoi é san comimeap.
22. An comimeap ir é do spreir • fearc Luigdeac gion sup luinn
leir
temeal sup cuir ar bar nglóir • as cornam fil Éireamóin.
23. Do áiríur móir an míocuro⁴ • uap ríog o'earbar ar tmocharo
reirap 'r céao luGARó san oíl • beas bar otaóbre na
brochair.
24. Cúis rochair map rigne ríog • mór glóir o'fuil Éibir a ríom
tuzao ar luGARó sío eao • rochair ar uille o'áireamh.
25. Sochair ir rigne flata • áiríur ar ríogmaro Mača
zar do céao a n-áireamh roin • beas pé otaoib do cúis rochair.
26. Ná buró conclann dá céile • ríol Éireamóin ríol Éibir
ní as sac don do baid a fíor • dá rguirtea a čaróo doo
comimeap.
27. Éascomérom áiríne na ríog • 'r na rochair čair⁹ Éire díob
pollur do sac don a-noir • ar t-fine ir tnom do časrair.
28. Duan a mairc do Čorc Cláire • ir do móir-fluac na Máige
an ríle o'fuil Éibir fínn • tarla ro čuro-re don čoinntinn.
29. Ole liom im čuir san tarba • ó fíor t-ealaóna ir t-anma
múrslao paltanair na bfeap • as maoróeam éact mac
Mileao.
30. Na ríur eile ir eao bío • as ceangal cairoir ir ríó
a loirc do baó leanta díuib • báro liom-ra sup lean luGARó.
31. Síol an dá mac rin Mileao • zar a nsaol se tá ar ríneao
a n-eapcairreap cian ó at-člor • mairc múrslar a bfaltanar.

¹ i.e., one could then conclude that the land given by the younger was worse than what he kept for himself. ² III. 8, 11. ³ III. 16. ⁴ Cf. "an-čuro," "majority"; "dichuid," Contrib. ⁵ IV. 46. ⁶ III. 17-20, 22. ⁷ Cf. XXI. 2 n. ⁸ IV. 21. ⁹ "Čair," 3 Sg. Pr. Sbj. of "to-air-ic" or "to-reth," generally used as future, but also as Pres. or Past, cf. XIV. 35; also "mairc čair idorin o'áirle cáis • luēt maoróim nac móir éaoál," O'Grady, Cat. 555, v. 17.

18. Had it been by way of inheritance from their father that they received Eire, it would be then a point worth proving that the elder got land from the younger.¹
19. Seniority does not give the right to a land when it is being seized by force. Heroes' bravery is the right title, and not the age of feeble men.
20. Eibhear's race ought not to thank you for counting their kings.² No benefit to them is your telling of their crimes and their ancients' "benefits."
21. To tell of the benefits brought to Banba by Eibhear's race would have been sensible, but it would have been better to count their kings without drawing any comparisons.
22. It was this comparison which stirred Lughaidh's anger to cast darkness on your glory—though he was otherwise not anxious to do so.
23. You counted twenty-eight³ kings on your side—great was the inferiority,⁴—Lughaidh a hundred and six⁵ correctly. Poor is your display beside them!
24. It was your five "benefits"⁶ mentioned by you as royal insignia⁷—if it be any glory to Eibhear's race to count them—which urged Lughaidh to count still greater ones.⁸
25. He counted benefits which are signs of kingship for Macha's kings. Near hundred their number. Poor beside them look your five benefits!
26. That the races of Eibhear and of Eireamhon were not equal to each other, every one might not have known had you refrained from your comparison!
27. From the unequal number of kings on either side, and the unequal benefits which Eire got⁹ from them, every one sees now that your argument tells against your own race.
28. A lasting misfortune for Corc of Dun gClaire and for the great host of the Maigh is the poet of Eibhear's race who took your side in the contention.
29. I like it not that by one of your knowledge and name there should in a profitless cause be awakened the heroes' anger by the telling of the crimes of Mile's race.
30. The other poets are binding friendship and peace. You should have followed their example. I am delighted that Lughaidh followed it.
31. As for the seed of those two sons of Mile, close is their kinship, though both now lie low. Long is it since their enmity has been heard of. Woe to him who awakens their strife!

32. Sealb na hÉireanni ar gac taobh • dearbh sup rgar mû-ran
 a-raon
 beas atá eatorra anor • mairg mûrslar a bpaltnar.
33. Beas mairdar uá nhablaib gairil • tearc a gcararo tearc a
 maoin
 'r iomrâ a n-eapcailre anor • mairg mûrslar a bpaltnar.
34. Ilâ gab éugao a scan rinn • ní do érom uib a-veirim
 'r ní o'ionnlaé an taobhe tear • déc naé aic liom an comhmar.

measa do.

32. Certain it is that the possession of Eire in every part has passed from them both. Little is the difference between them now. Woe to him who awakens their strife !
33. Few of their branching families live now ! Few their friends ! Small their wealth ! Many now are their foes ! Woe to him who awakens their strife !
34. Take not to heart my words. Not to revile you do I say them, or to revile the South, but because I like not this comparison of yours.

50 5CEAO 000 5AIRM A 5RÁCTAIR. TÁ05 MC0ÁIRE CCT.

1. 50 5CEAO 000 5AIRM A 5RÁCTAIR · 00 5'FEARRI AIRE AR 00
TÁCTAIB
ní tú 00 5EIB MO0 IO PPÍO · AÉT NA 5RÁ0A 'P AN AIBÍO.
2. 0Á 0TU5TÁ AIRE 0AM-PA · 5UAIR 5EIT 000 TPEABAO TAPIPA²
AN CÉAÉT AR AR CUIPIR LÁM · PÚIL POMAO AIR NÍOPÚ FUPÁIL.
3. 0Á MEAP0Á NAÉ 0LIGFINN PIN · MO ÉOIR FÉIN 00 TÁ5PA MÚ
05AL NEAC PÉ PÁ00TEAR OIC · AIBMOP5 PA MÍOP AN 0AONNAÉT.
4. AM ÉOPNAM FÉIN TÁ5PAM MÚ · FEIPPOE M'FÍOP-ÉACTA-PA PIN
0ION5NA³ AN NÍ TAPLA AR T-AIRE · COPNAM FIP NÁP ÉPÍOPTAR0E.
5. 5AC NÍ 5EANAR PÉO 5AIRM FÉIN · ÓP ANN 0LIGIM BIAO⁴ 000
PÉIP
ní mó ná ionnta PO A-MÁIN · CPETOM 000 ÉOMAR0 ÉOMIPAR0.
6. UPPAM UAM-PE 0'AOIR TOPNA · PÉAC AN BPETÉAMINAR
TPOM0A
MO0 UPPAMA 'P NAÉ ÁIL LÍB · Ó PÓIREAR FÉIN 0'AOIR ÉIBIP.
7. IP POUUP 5UP LÉIS PA LÁP · OIPCEAR 00 FÉA0PA0 00 PÁ0
A ÉUP NA LEIT I MO0 ÉOIR · 0AP LIOM NÍ MÓP AN ÉA5CÓIP.
8. ATÁ 0AM-PA MIP⁷ AN 0ÁM · 5AN IP LIU5A0 NEIT 0Á 5CÁIL
NAPAB MIP0E T'AI5NEAO PUNN · MO TÁ5PA NEAM-ÉLON NEIM-ÉIM.
9. NEAC PAN OP0 MIA5LA I BPUILE · MÁ ÉLONANN AMÁIL 0UINE
TÁ5PA PE CAPAO NA LEAP · NÍ BÉIM 0'FÍOP 0ON OP0 ÉIGEAP.
10. CÓPA 0AM-PA 0ÍOP5A UM 5LÓP · IONÁP 00 TOPNA 5O MÓP
ATÚ I 5CPETOEAM NÁP ÉPEPO POIN · AM LIA 0'FÍOP IP 0'EALAOAIN.
11. 5IBÉ A-0EAPAO NÁPÚ FÍOP 0ÚINN · MO 5LÓP PE TOPNA 5AN
PÚIN
0OM PAMÁIL NÍ TPÁCT TEICME · ANOIP UAIR A FUP0I5TE.
12. IOM0A NÍ 0LIGTEAR 00 ÉAC · TÉRO 5AN 0'EANAM AR A LÁN
NÍ HION5NAC NÍ 00 0OL OE · NÍ PAIBE I 0TOPNA AÉT 0UINE.
13. LEAC-5RÁ0 OP0E IOIP 0ALTAIB · 5O 5CEAO 0AOIB FÉIN NÁ
MAÉTNUIS
'P NA HAITEPE Ó N5EINTEAR CLANNA · 5O MBÍ LEAC-5RÁ0 EATOPPA.
14. MO PPEA5PA-PA AR LU5AR FÉIN · LÓP LIOM PAN CÁP PIN OP0 É
PIA0AIN TOPNA A5 TOI5EACÉ LEAM · PA P5AC AIR MIA PÚ5
ÉIREANN.
15. CÓPA 0AM-PA IONÁP 00 C0PE · PÓ5PA AR FEANCAR0 MA0 PÍÚ
A LOÉT
EOLÉA MIRE I 5CEIP0 MAP PIN · EOLÉA C0PE I 5CEIP0 5AIR5ÍO.

¹Cf. XVII. 4. ²TAPIPA noun or adj. Cf. XVI. 4. ³For 0ION5NA, cf. V. 158. ⁴5EAO MSS. ⁵XIII. 4. ⁶XIII. 5. ⁷Cf. "00 BÍ 0UIT MIP NA 0AOIÉIB. 0UL NA 5CAC 00 ÉEAOAOIMÚ," P. ÓN ÉÁINTE, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 149, v. 13. ⁸XIII. 6, 7. ⁹XIII. 10, cf. V. 116. ¹⁰XIII. 11, 11 XIII. 12, cf. III. 4; V. 114, 116.

[Answers XIII., and shown by XVIII. 8 to be probably previous to X V.]

1. With all respect to your calling, O Friar, it were better for you to attend to your Office. Your Orders ¹ and your habit, not your personal character with its spite, impose restraint on me.
2. If you attend to me (instead of your office) there is danger of your ploughing being crooked! You should have kept your eye straight before you on the plough to which you have put your hand.
3. If you think I ought not defend my rights against you, remember that he who is spoken harshly to is dangerous. Alas! human nature is frail!
4. In my own defence I speak to you. My cause of quarrel is the greater for that. Strange ³ is the task you undertake, the defence of an unbeliever (Torna)!
5. In all that concerns your calling I will obey you, as is my duty. In nothing further do I heed your authority.
6. Reflect if your opinion that I owe respect to Torna's age carries any weight, seeing that you do not wish due respect to be given by his younger brother to Eibhear's age.⁵
7. It is clear that Torna left unsaid fitting things he could have said. To bring that against him in a fair way is not a great injustice,⁶ I think.
8. It is my duty ⁷ in regard to the sages to belittle none of their qualities. May your feeling for me be none the bitterer for my argument—which is not “partial” nor “weak.”⁸
9. If one of your Order fails, as a man will do, a poet deserves not reproach for speaking to him as a friend for his good.
10. Uprightness in word is much more my duty than Torna's. I belong to the faith which he had not. I am richer in knowledge and science.
11. If anyone say that my plain words to Torna were untrue, one like me cannot shirk. Now is the time to establish them.
12. Many things that are a duty are left undone by many. No wonder that something should escape Torna.⁹ He was only a man.
13. Please do not be astonished if a master's affection be divided between two pupils, seeing that even fathers have a divided affection for their children.
14. In this matter I think my answer to Lughaidh is enough for you, namely Torna's evidence supporting me as to his being afraid of Eire's king.¹⁰
15. It is more my duty than Corc's to denounce a sage if he deserves it.¹¹ I am more skilled in this profession, Corc in that of arms.

16. Dámað áil leir san buain ann · ní biad̥ t̥rom ar̥ t̥orna im
p̥ann
buain¹ i t̥at̥sa i r̥eand̥að ar̥ · b̥r̥iōḡ mo t̥ruim i r̥ leir
beand̥ar.
17. Ní t̥oir̥m̥ir̥ḡm̥ r̥a t̥rem̥ beo · óiḡ-r̥éir̥ ḡad̥ doim̥ d̥á t̥c̥i
leo
ḡr̥o ead̥ na r̥iada b̥iōr̥ air̥ · i r̥ t̥iōl̥ta t̥'f̥iōr̥ ar̥ t̥or̥aiḡ.⁴
18. Ní r̥át̥ éas̥naiḡ oim̥ t̥on d̥am̥ · mā t̥iḡ liom̥ a r̥as̥áil̥ d̥áib̥
cl̥ú cion⁵ t̥on t̥ruim̥ḡ ḡá b̥ruil̥ r̥iōr̥ · r̥iōr̥ t̥on t̥ruim̥ḡ t̥ar̥la
i n̥-ain̥b̥iōr̥.
19. M̥á t̥o ad̥nar̥ inn̥te a-r̥úr̥ · r̥plan̥ne ar̥ l̥uḡe ceo ar̥
ḡr̥úr̥⁷
m̥á t̥o c̥uir̥ear̥ t̥'f̥eōm̥ oim̥ · c̥uir̥eo ar̥ r̥uo a r̥eand̥-olla.
20. M̥á t̥o c̥uir̥ m̥é i ḡcl̥uair̥ cáis̥ · ḡo b̥ruil̥ níōr̥ m̥ó t̥'f̥iōr̥
im̥ l̥am̥
ion̥ár̥ t̥o r̥ad̥il̥ c̥ád̥ t̥o beit̥ · ní r̥át̥ t̥iom̥d̥a oim̥ t̥'éiḡr̥ib̥.
21. M̥ó ar̥ c̥ópa t̥ot̥ oim̥ r̥éim̥ · beit̥ t̥iom̥d̥ad̥ t̥iōt̥-r̥a r̥a b̥éim̥
i t̥at̥sa naē beand̥ann̥ r̥uib̥ · 'r̥ b̥ar̥ t̥ceim̥n̥-f̥eōm̥ t̥'uad̥ad̥
oim̥b̥.
22. An̥ t̥at̥sa t̥o t̥r̥iall̥ad̥ r̥uib̥ · c̥ópaṛ̥oe d̥ib̥ san̥ buain̥ r̥ur̥
c̥uir̥o d̥am̥ t̥'ead̥r̥ad̥⁸ t̥o c̥uir̥o d̥é · níat̥ b̥r̥eic̥eand̥ ann̥ níat̥
aiḡne.
23. Ad̥t̥ don̥ f̥l̥aiṛ̥r̥í t̥á i ḡc̥uib̥ail̥ · t̥o b̥ad̥ t̥oileḡe liom̥ l̥uḡad̥
im̥ aḡad̥ r̥a t̥at̥sa i t̥at̥am̥ · ná t̥-oim̥ uile ḡo hiom̥l̥án̥.
24. M̥ár̥ i an̥ c̥al̥maēt̥ ar̥ c̥ear̥t̥ ann̥ · ní h̥ir̥l̥iḡt̥e¹⁰ b̥r̥iōḡ mo
p̥ann̥
r̥e coir̥ doir̥e ní r̥r̥iṛ̥ loēt̥ · ar̥ c̥uir̥o éib̥ir̥ t̥on c̥al̥maēt̥.
25. Ní r̥r̥iṛ̥ d̥ar̥ ḡl̥uair̥ leir̥ t̥ar̥ t̥uim̥n̥ · ní r̥r̥iṛ̥ r̥om̥ne i n̥éir̥im̥n̥
uill̥
ḡá t̥at̥ár̥¹² a c̥or̥naib̥ r̥a r̥oim̥n̥ · a b̥ar̥p̥ t̥o c̥éile com̥l̥uim̥n̥.
26. An̥ t̥i t̥o b̥'f̥ear̥p̥ r̥om̥ne i r̥ t̥ir̥ · t̥o t̥uit̥ leir̥ i r̥ é na r̥iḡ
t̥ó níōr̥ c̥om̥ar̥t̥a l̥aiḡe · mar̥ōm̥ ar̥ c̥ád̥ t̥o b̥'ur̥ar̥oe.
27. T̥o beand̥ t̥iōb̥ r̥oḡa leat̥a · t̥'éir̥im̥n̥ ar̥ r̥eād̥ a beat̥a
num̥ir̥ t̥r̥ir̥ a n̥-áir̥eand̥ r̥in̥ · an̥ c̥uir̥o oile t̥'f̥uail̥ m̥l̥ir̥ib̥.
28. Le noēt̥ad̥ r̥ḡéil̥ éib̥ir̥ t̥óib̥ · ḡad̥ nead̥ b̥iōr̥ na b̥r̥eic̥eand̥
c̥óir̥
r̥á r̥ad̥ oim̥ ní t̥ionḡnad̥ t̥rom̥ · naē ó r̥óir̥ear̥ r̥uair̥ r̥eand̥ann̥.
29. Áir̥eand̥ ḡad̥ ar̥ áir̥m̥ear̥ t̥iōb̥ · neand̥-n̥ár̥ t̥'éib̥ear̥ i r̥ d̥á
r̥iōl̥
t̥óis̥ naē ba l̥uḡar̥oe a ḡc̥ion̥ · an̥ c̥uir̥o eile d̥á n̥-áir̥m̥iōir̥.

¹ Buain (fr. bongim) as v. noun. of beandaim. For beandaim i n- cf. "r̥á b̥éim̥ i n̥-ain̥m̥uōēt̥ umam," C. McÓáir̥e, RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 12, v. 21. ² XIII. 13. ³ XIII. 14, 16. ⁴ Ar̥ t̥or̥ad̥, ar̥ t̥or̥aiḡ, ar̥ t̥ot̥or̥ad̥, ó t̥or̥aiḡ all used. ⁵ Cf. "níōr̥ c̥uir̥i b̥ruan̥ c̥éill̥ na c̥eand̥ib̥," Doim̥n̥. McB̥ruair̥eas̥ad̥, RIA. 23 D. 14,

16. Had Torna not interfered ¹ I should not have attacked him in my poem. The point of my attack is that he did interfere and did it ineffectually (?).²
17. I object to no party serving those of their side. Yet one must fulfil ³ first the duties incumbent on him.
18. If I manage to secure the fame of triumphs ⁵ for those who have knowledge, and knowledge for the ignorant, that is no just reason ⁶ for the poets to revile me !
19. If I have kindled in them flame when dust had settled on embers⁷ ; if I have made them search their old records :
20. If I dinned into the ears of all that I have more knowledge in hand than anyone thought I had, that is no reason for the poets to revile me !
21. Your Order has the greater reason for anger at your interfering in a dispute that concerns you not, because other heavy labours are obligatory on you.
22. It were better for you not to meddle with the dispute you have undertaken. Yours is " the role of the ox at milking time." ⁸
You are no judge nor pleader in the case.
23. I was sorrier that Lughaidh should be against me in this dispute than if the whole of your Order was in it—except Flaithri ⁹ alone who wears the habit.
24. If bravery constitutes right the point of my verse is not to be belittle^d.¹⁰ Except for his being old ¹¹ no fault was ever found with Eibhear's bravery !
25. Of all who came over sea with him, of all who were in Eire before him, there was not any one to fight him ¹² for his share, any warrior to surpass him.
26. The bravest man who met him in the land ¹³ fell when king by the hand of Eibhear. That showed no weakness in him ! His victory over everyone else was the easier for it.
27. He took from them his choice half of Eire during his life. Three was the number of the others of Mile's stock.¹⁴
28. No fair judge would have been angry with me for saying,¹⁵ when telling them Eibhear's story, that he did not receive the land from his younger brother.
29. To count the kings whom I counted was no shame to Eibhear and his race. Their triumph will not, I think, be less if I tell of the rest of them ! ¹⁶

p. 135. ⁶ XIII. 15. ⁷ Syll. short. leg. ce nḡ ciaḡ or ap an nḡ. ⁸ XVI. 6, 92, evidently a proverb. ⁹ p. Ó maolcónaire, O.S.F., Archbishop of Tuam. O'R. 1629. ¹⁰ MSS. írlíche. ¹¹ XIII. 17-19. ¹² MSS. sḡ o áip. ¹³ Mac Cuill. III. 8. ¹⁴ Eireamhon, Eibhear son of Ir, Lughaidh son of Ith. ¹⁵ III. 7. ¹⁶ XIII. 20. MSS. áipínnn.

30. An comhimear ní mé do ériall . aét do éabairt fheadra
ar miall
níorb iongnadh mé dá cup pur . cuir doar léis Torna éair.
31. An-ra ir luğarò so réir . congbarò bar mbreás ašair
féin
dóis so bfuighear cuir dá fíor . cis díom má cōsraim
comhimear.
32. Mí haòbar teimil dom glóir . mé do éagra neit don cóir
san ainbior pé cup im leit . san luait-breit ir san leit-
breit.
33. Mí dulta re fheadra mbuirb . irteac tar moð mašla an
uir
d'fíor do šeabao éaire a-mac . bað deacair maic cáic
d'ionnla.
34. Šé bað ceao aš do dá šairm . brácair doctúir bar noá
ainm
díon ceirt ríog-šluaš Mumhan Mír . ní léigib díom ar
é-air.
35. Air ir luait-breit mar don . šrō com-luaé uair-re ar šac
taob
ní éaire leo mire im toct . so bñionnair cáic do d'úmaé.⁴
36. Do teirir mar an raogal . so d'cuigto cáic ir baogal
an raogal do cup do luirš . irteac ar fuo an šlan-uir.
37. Iongnadh nac deairmar dá réir . mar do ní cuir máic don
cléir
nar congbar breit do breite . so deirad na faoiróine.
38. Ro-luaé rušair le luğarò . breit oram mar náir éubar
pul do éuala tú pé mear . don focal pur dom ašnear.
39. Míor fíarfaš tú an mbiað pé máð . éinní ašam ar mo
ršac⁵
ma mbreit breite doarēa d'uib . doo commaic mar náir
cōrmaul.
40. Šibé mar do fheadair mé . Miall nó Torna na nglóir féin
náir mear tú šurb é do oir . mar fheadra do glóir luğarò.
41. Mí mar do téx éirēaoi šluair . aét mar éairnear re bar
šluair
níor šeallair uile a ríom rin . ríš náir rocair ríl n'ébir.
42. Šrō ead do áirnear cuir díob . dá cup i šcéill nacarū
fíor
bmačar uairbreac ainteanh lléill . péir šairmead an-éair
díb-péin.
43. Míor áirnear aét uacāð ruar . níor áirnear mar fárad
cluar
na ríš nac rušad ann poin . ná céao bliadān na deašarò.

30. It was not I who started the comparison. I merely answered Niall. No wonder I added some things which Torna omitted.¹
31. Remain quiet you and Lughaidh! Keep your falsehood to yourselves. I think some of it will be discovered! I, too, if I choose can make "comparisons"!
32. It brings no shadow on my glory² that I should plead some of the truth, so that no ignorance or rash or biassed judgment can be brought against me.
33. You should not³ by your rough answer have violated the moderation enjoined by your Rule. He who would transgress it ought hardly to attack others' good deeds!
34. I will pay due deference to your two titles, friar and doctor, but for all your reviling, I will not omit to defend the rights of the noble host of Mumha Mis.
35. As for reviling and rash judgment, though you are ready with them at every point, you shall not silence me by means of them before everyone sees the excess of your zeal!⁴
36. You have fled from the world! All see, I fear, that the world has followed you into the pure Order!
37. I wonder you acted not as most of the clergy, keeping the sentence till the end of the confession!
38. Too hastily, like Lughaidh, you improperly passed judgment on me before hearing, so as to examine it, a word of my argument against him!
39. You asked not if I had a word to say in my defence⁵ before in unseemly wise passing sentence of condemnation on your peer!
40. Whatever answer I made Niall or Torna, using their own words, you thought it did not suit as an answer to Lughaidh.
41. Your notes are not according to your text, but are according as they please your ear! I did not promise to count all the kings, or all the benefits of Eibhear's race.
42. Yet, I mentioned some of them to disprove the proud arrogant word of Niall who called them "usurpers."⁶
43. I counted only a few of them. I did not count to please the ear the kings who were not born then, nor for a hundred years after!

¹ XIII. 21, 22. ² XIII. 22. ³ Or "One must not" . . . to bring out contrast of *irteac* . . . *amae*, but sense seems less good. ⁴ Cf. "*reo an fear tuisce tuisceadac . . . no ní son dóir éagsóir*," *É.* ón *Cáinte*, RIA. 23 N. 11, p. 166, v. 43. ⁵ Cf. "*caoin an fúlaing an tó rṣác . . . Cúige tó ceannais cás i gcéim*," *Δ.* ó *Óláir*, RIA 23 M. 23, p. 5, v. 3; Vis. McCongl. ⁶ III. 13.

44. Dá n-áirínninn nís peampa a-maon • ran lons díreac ar zac
taobh
ní fainginn féin ná luḡaró • do bpeir as miall dá ceatpar.
45. Níor áirínn mé nís don éirínn • zā mbeir éin-neac d'Éirínn
féin
ná neart eactrann as poinn fur • na nísge fear a flaitir.
46. Fada zabbam ó bar nór • nacar áirínn mire fōr
mar do níí an luēt do ní • leir-nís orra na éirínn-ní.
47. Dá n-anas luḡaró mar rin • an t-áiream mōr nómēar lib
ní diaó euro aróbríḡe ann • lons díreac an dá rāor-élan.
48. Sočair na níos ná nís féin • níor áirínnear uile zo léir
ní leo do éirínn-pe bpeir • ar áirínnear díob níor áirínnear.
49. Na ročair mōra māorōe • dá zcur i zcluarib dāoine
féactar cia pé mbean a mbun • féactar ročair na ročair.
50. Ní mar beirctear lib-pe bpeir • beirctear luēt féacta ar zac
leir
féactar zac cúir i na ceart • roir all-ḡlōr ir éirínn.
51. An éirínn fa rine don tríol • níosda i bfuil i ngairm i
ngníom
mar concloinn munab lōr lat • cumnig qui se exaltat.
52. Níor méarair ina mōr cōir • m'áiream níos ročair a ríos
ní mó ar éirínn leat a méar • an euro díob nacar áirínnear.
53. Tuigim ort zo rāoiltear lib • nac rāib aēt a zcuata rib
d'áiream níos⁵ ar mo cōr⁶ • ná do rloinnead a ročair.
54. Zrō ead ní hamlaró a-tā • an euro do fāzbar zan rāó
do zēada páirt dá fīor roin • im fpeazra ar ḡlōr luḡaró.
55. Rīs ir ročair lén roirib cur • im briaēraib pe Tōrpa ar ndul
im éirínn-ēadēt rīor níor éirínn mé • amac uaim bpeir an éirínn.⁶
56. Mar deapad ar mo rāirōib • do léirctear díom zan áirínn
nís 'r a ročair zan bpeir ḡill • ar bar dāoib uile d'Éirínn.
57. Mar rin zomāo anta dāoib • zan bpeir do bpeir le leat-
taoib
zo bpeir don rḡeal oile ort • 'r zan féadain d'fuaē ná
d'annrāēt.
58. Duan a māirz don dāoib rin dūaró • bar bpeazra adnar
a n-uail
muna diaó bar dāzra ruinn • mōr dá noētāim nac noēt-
rainn.

¹ V. 117.² Clann Eibhir.³ XIII. 26.⁴ XIII. 27.⁵ Svll.

short, mo níos? ⁶ Metaphor from game of cards, etc. Cf. XVIII. 169; XXIV. 13; XIV. 55; XV. 125; for cor cf. "ó tá ar cor caom-maíne éirínn. cor zac rāor-áime rēacúinn," C. McDáire, RIA. 23 A. 30, p. 87, v. 17; "ní fuil éirínn ann do cor," F. ón Cainte, RIA. 23 M. 16, p. 80, v. 10; ar cor na zcúid n-eile rin," Som. Mc an Bairo, RIA. 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 14.

⁷ V. 146-7.⁸ XIV. 28

44. Were I to count the kings preceding them both in the direct line, I should not find, nor Lughaidh either, Niall to have a majority of eight.¹
45. I counted in the stock no kings with whom anyone at home or any army of foreigners shared the rule during their reign.
46. I avoid your method. I counted not as you do who make out a joint-king to be a perfect king !
47. Had Lughaidh remained satisfied to do as I, the great list which you make, the direct line of both free-races would not have given you much to boast of !
48. I did not count all the kings' "benefits" or all the kings. I will not add to what I have given. You have not told of yours as much as I have told of mine !
49. As for the great "benefits" you boast of, dinning them into people's ears, let it be seen what is their real value, what is the benefit of the "benefits" !
50. Not as you pass judgment do those pass it who regard a subject in every light, who examine every case aright, both loud talk and reality !
51. If you are discontented that the eldest stock,² kingly in blood and glory and deed, should be your rivals, reflect on "*qui se exultat*" !³
52. You did not appreciate justly my number of kings and the "benefits" of their host, neither can you appreciate those I did not mention !⁴
53. I infer from you that you imagine that what you have heard from me of the kings⁵ and their "benefits" which I recounted, was all I had to produce.⁶
54. Yet it is not so. In my answer to Lughaidh⁷ you can find much of what I omitted.
55. When attacking Torna, at my first coming into the fight, I did not set forth the kings and "benefits" with whom it would be hard to contend, the ones to win the game !⁶
56. A proof of this is that I left uncounted the kings—with their "benefits"—who got no submission in all your part of Eire.
57. Thus, you, too, should have refrained until you saw the other side of the case, from giving partial judgment, and from having regard to hate and bias.
58. Long shall the north rue your answer which is inflaming their arrogance ! Were it not for your argument against us much that I now disclose I would not have disclosed !⁸

59. Ní mé do tpiall a maordeamh · éadta glan-uairle Sadordeat
 Miall ir é do tionnirgain roim · maordeamh Cúbir ir Eogain.
60. A maordeamh níor tpiall mire · ní deapnao dā n-innir³
 aet fpeasra ar Miall i gcár Cúir · do léis Torna san tabairt.
61. Ir ead murglar fala i gcéin · ruim d'fior go mór na maic
 féin
 maic cáic oile nac léir lair · mar ar gñac luét an díomair.
62. Mó ná ar tásrair don taoib tair · dā mbeic neac comērom
 dā mear
 do tásair luair léir dām · do cúir eapanta d'adnamh.
63. Níor labrair im céad-glór féin · aet ní fe tcead Torna
 ir Néill
 ní peampa 'r na nteadair roim · pollur sup labair luair.
64. Sibé lén hál téanamh ríod · roir dā dpuing don fpeimh ríod
 congad go comērom a cúing⁴ · ná tugad táir ar fadp-
 cloinn.
65. An díomur ó eis dā taob · murglad fala rluas pé nsaol
 ní mian liom tásra ar a lor · maiz neartar leir an díomur.
66. Tpe díomur táinic ar tór · bmaear uairpeac Néill go nór
 mar do eir ollum pé élor · maiz neartar pur an díomur.
67. Le díomur náir fuilngad lib · ar labrair i na aair rin
 d'fip-rséalaib an taoibe i bpur · maiz neartar leir an
 díomur.
68. Ní géad cúgam a gcan ríu · ní dām ar doilge leam rin
 aet cáic dā bpeasnuad ro · an oirdear d'fior do garma.
69. A-dearadair dpeam nac díb féin · eis aignear eadpann ir
 mé
 sibé heile pur ar bun · ir dē ar beitte dúinn díomad.
70. Ar eagla an bpeiteamhair tal · ní beitte dúinn náir dā
 pann
 maic dām-ra mo fpeasra oir · maicim-re duit-re a dúrad.
71. Maicemh gac neit éairdear don · ór i deag-toil ríod na
 naomh
 somad don toil dúinn ir dō · an pí dāir léir ar n-ugō.

GO SCEAD.

¹ XIII. 29. ² III. 10, 29. ³ Dā n- for a n- as often. ⁴ Cf. Contrib.
⁵ XIII. 30. ⁶ XIII. 34. ⁷ MSS. also eadpao.

59. I did not start the telling of the crimes ¹ of the fair nobles of the Gaedhil. Niall began boasting of Eibhear's death and Eoghan's. ²
60. I did not begin the boasting ³—what you say is not a fact—I merely answered Niall in defence of Corc, an answer which Torna neglected to give.
61. What awakens hatred far and wide is that a man should value excessively his excellence, so that other's excellence is hidden from him—as is the way with proud folk!
62. Lughaidh, evidently, if a fair-minded man were to judge the matter, brought forward to cause dissension, more than what I advanced for the North.
63. In my first poem I mentioned only events before Torna and Niall. Lughaidh clearly spoke of things before them and after them.
64. He who would make peace between the two parties of the royal race should keep his scale ⁴ even, nor shame any free race. ⁵
65. As pride results in the awaking of hosts' anger against their kin, I wish not to plead by appealing to it. Woe to him who fosters pride!
66. Through pride Torna was silent when he heard glorious Niall's haughty word. Woe to him who fosters pride!
67. Through pride you could not suffer what I told of the true history of the South against it (Niall's word). Woe to him who fosters pride!
68. I shall not take your words to heart. Not to me do I think them injurious, but is it fitting for one of your calling that every one should have to be contradicting them? ⁶
69. People said that this dispute between us ⁷ did not arise from your own initiative. Whoever caused it, we should be angry with him.
70. For fear of the judgment in the next life we should not be split into two parties here. Pardon me my answer to you. I pardon your provoking it!
71. Since it is the will of the King of Saints that one should pardon those who injure one, let us have the same wish as He, the King to whom our wishes are clear.

measa do tásgrais a tairōs. doth ó domhail eccl.

[Answer to V. It was written (cf. XVI. 180) before XVI., and is subsequent to XIII. (cf. XVIII. 8). The MSS. A. K². Z differ considerably in places from C. R. I follow the latter giving in the Var. Lect. the variants and omissions.]

1. Measa do tásgrair a tairōs . má do féadair gac don airo
ioná Toirna an dāna uil . oroe léill ir Coiric Cairil.
2. Maireg duit 'r gurab duit a maireg . do nuair é'iomairbáir
a tairōs
roir do leit Moḡa a-muig . 'r an leat-ra Cuinn Céad-cátaig.
3. Ní fiú a gcuro d'Éirinn a-noir . maicne mílead mílōige Roir
iad féin fá céile do cup . córa dāib ríot do fnaōmar.
4. Ór í rin do b'innctinn daoib . a tairōs míic Dáire go n-doir
go b'raḡtá f'neasra nár tair . truaḡ nac na érác do tásgrair.
5. Do bí pe ré bliadna dēas . do dān ro cionn dā cōmhēas
níor léig easla ril gCuinn éair . duit-pe d'éin-neac a
domhail.
6. Nō gur oibread tar ráil roir . ríocht luḡoine 'r Tuatail
ḡloin
'r gur éasrao toirim a reac . do dān níor domhair d'éin-neac.
7. Tú it don i n-aḡair pobuil . nár dāoir féin a nōearnaḡair
ní heac a-māin mōr an meac . tú it don i n-aḡair puibleac.
8. Ní tiocfao d'éisrib Danba . ná d'féadur a n-ealadna
dā nōeacair dōib 'r dā b'fuil beo . leabair na héireann
d'aitceo.
9. Do fāoir mé gur léigead lib . Gabáltair Dinnreacair uil
leabair ipre linnre hāirt . b'ruighe Toḡla 'r Tocháire.
10. Leabair aro-māca go mbuair . 'r ar rḡrīb b'róḡán tair ir
tuair.
maireg duit nár léig na am . 'r ar rḡrīb Colum ir Comḡall.⁸
- II. Sceaptra linnre Cátaig cóir . cóir Ciapām i gCluain Mic
Nóir
leabair Moḡuoa an clúin tair¹² . maireg nár léig rui do
labair.
12. Do b'anta gur an daoib tuair . ar b'pait praitrac Cairil
cupair
roir gac b'ruing don dēas-fóir . d'fuil Éibir ir Éireamhōin.
13. Truaḡ nár léigir na rḡreaptra . do rḡrīb lám Camin
Cealtara
leabair ḡlunn dā loea tair . 'r leabair Tuama dā ḡulann.

¹ Eire. ² 1607. ³ O'Neill, d. 1616; O'Donnell, 1608. ⁴ Leabair Gabála.

⁵ Leabair Oirir (?). ⁶ Cf. Silv. Gad. I., p. 337. ⁷ ḡsallam na reanórac and other Fenian tales. Brogan was Patrick's scribe. ⁸ MSS. Mat. 374, 242; or,

1. Worse have you argued, O Tadhg,—even if you have sought arguments in every direction—than the truthful poet Torna, teacher of Niall and of Corc of Caiseal.
2. Woe to you, on you may woe fall, for renewing strife between your Mogh's Half and this Half of Conn Cead-chathach !
3. What the race of Mile of Magh Rois ¹ possess in Erin to-day is not of such worth that they should be set against each other for it ! It was your duty rather to reconcile them.
4. Since your intention, my gentle Tadhg Mac Daire, was that you might get an answer that would not be feeble, a pity you did not speak soon enough !
5. For sixteen years your poem was kept in your head. Fear of blameless Conn's race prevented you from telling anyone of its existence !
6. Till the race of Iughoine and splendid Tuathal were driven East oversea,² and one after the other died there,³ you mentioned not your poem to anyone !
7. A shame for you was your attempt, you alone against a whole tribe. It was a foolish attempt too, you against many tribes !
8. Not all Banba's poets nor all the dead and all the living however great their lore could refute the books of Eire.
9. I imagined you had read the "Invasions,"⁴ the truthful "Dinnseanchus," the history books of Art's Isle,⁵ the "Courts,"⁶ the "Destructions," the "Wooings,"
10. The Book of Armagh so valuable, what Brogan⁷ wrote in the North and South. Woe to you for not having read in good time the writings of Colum and Comhghall !
11. A pity you read not previously the truthful writings of Inis Cathach,⁹ the book of Ciaran¹⁰ of Cluain Mic Nois, the book of Mochuda¹¹ of the soft¹² hair.
12. You should have abided, as the North does, by the judgment of the Psalter of Caiseal¹³ between the parties of Eibhear's and Eireamhon's goodly race.
13. A pity you read not the writings of Caimin of Inis Cealtra,¹⁴ the Book of Gleann Da Loch¹⁵ in your country and the book¹⁶ of Tuaim Da Ghualann !

reading with Z. "Conall ip Comóall," *i.e.*, Conall Meann and Comóall (or Comigan) Mac óá Cearpa. ⁹ ? ¹⁰ MSS. Mat. 374 ; Eriu, iii. 227. ¹¹ I. E. Rec., xxvii. 1910. ¹² Possibly "wet," cf. Mart. Donegal, 14 May, "Romie noáa uerna neáa · leáa a noerna uo uernaib," but more probably "soft," a merely ornamental epithet. Cf. "a éaoib naá tairé clum," A. Macaoáaááin, RIA. 23 D. 16, p. 185, v. 6 ; "Donncaó Ó Uruain an bairr tair," T. McOááre, RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 30, v. 4 ; "uoc ééib uairé uairé," A. Ó Uáááá, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 230. ¹³ Cf. N. I. Rev., xxv., 350 (McNeill). ¹⁴ Psalter, etc., cf. Transact. RIA. v. 92. ¹⁵ Book of Leinster. ¹⁶ ?

14. Má 'do rugrao bpeit le báiré . ollamain Éireann 'd'éan-láim
dearbú naé rugrao naomh a-naill . roir cáé aét bpeit comérom.
15. 'Do fáoil cáé supú eolaé cóir . tura ar maicne Míliré móir
supú cum ríú an reanéar cam . uéarú gáé neac go labramn.¹
16. Ní buirdeac díot-ra ríol gCunn . díomóac ríol nOilloll
Ólunn
ní barr meara don taobú deap . a gclor uab-re 'dot aigheap.
17. Roi-binn rir an 'dtaobú-re éuaré . a éaró gáé a gcluinno uab
dearbú leo go gclaoiríódeap ríú . ó 'dheim éigin dá n-éigiríú.
18. Cairéaró féin mo gá ríú-re . go gceao dá bar n-éigirí-re
dá ndeac fá lár níor gnaé roin . tpargaram laoc ionn gáé
iorgail.
19. Trua gáé ar an ngao éleacé mé . gécú-ra i n-eaprm'aoiré²
réo roga Mumineac ón Máig . a éaró gáé ar n-íomarbáiré.
20. 'Do bíad a ceann leam-ra im láim . ríú 'do réaróaróe ar
n-eapráin
ir crú a époróe ar mo gá gíar . díallad³ 'duine re a dúéar.
21. 'Do bdearunn an tíaé éug Conn . ar éogan Mór um an 'bponn
nó an díac fúar Connáol cam . ó éigearnníar mac fóllaig.
22. Nó an díol 'do raó Írual fáiré . ar éeaprar mac Éibir áin
nó an díol 'do raó fóir an reap . Éireamón aró ar Éibear.
23. 'D'luóine meap meannnac móir . rínnreap raróbir na fáir-ríó g
'do níonnúig ríol Éibir fínn . gan cur ré éloinn um Éirínn.
24. Cíao éloinn luóine a-nuar . fuargail dáim an éirí gan éruar
dár gáé Teamair na 'dteap 'de⁷ . aét ráit 'd'luóine
'd'oiríre.⁸
25. Mar ráitáir ar a gconnráó . gáé don dúil buí gá 'bfo gnam
éar gair grian gan 'dol 'de⁹ . muir ir tír tuile ir áitbe.
26. 'Do ríol luóine ar buan bíad . ríó gnaó uairle na náiban
le Séamur aníú ma le . Sacra álba agur Éire.
27. Dá ríol fóir i nÉirínn uill . Orparóe Láigin leat éuinn
Dál 'bfiatac Dál Ríaoa a-le . báirígne Múrgparóe Déire.
28. Dá n-anóaoir i mbun¹² a ngaoil . ríol laogáiré ir Cobéaig
éaoil
'do bíad gá ríóéct go bráé mbínn¹³ . íomáin éin-leite ar
Éirínn.

¹ Cf. "már ríor ir uéarú gáé neac . go labairt . . ." RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 103, v. 3. ² 8, 6 syll. in couplet. ³ "as díall re haritú oile," T. McÓáiré, RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 30, v. 1. ⁴ K II. 120. ⁵ K II. 118. ⁶ K II. 104. ⁷ Cf. "ní bíoir gáil na ngleo 'de," Dom. McÓáiré, RIA. 23 D. 14, p. 135, v. 19. ⁸ Cf. "a ráit 'd'oiríre ar éinrígíú," "o'éir páoir-féilbe éac i gcein . a ráit 'd'aoim-eigíre ainríéin," T. McÓáiré, RIA. 23 C. 18, p. 66, v. 20 ; L. 37, p. 206, v. 33 ; "ráit í 'dálai g 'do dáimna an . 'doimnall 'd'neac náéaró : ráit an 'doimn-ágaró ríng ríéin 'd'ar linn 'd'ollamain ainríéin," p. ón éainté, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 202, v. 24. ⁹ Cf. "tuile ráit gan ríó gáó

14. Even if Eire's sages together gave biased judgment, certainly the saints of old gave just judgment between all.
15. Everyone thought you would be wise and fair about great Mile's race until you composed your perverse history. "Everyone is a writer till he writes!"¹
16. Conn's race thanks you not; Oilill's is angry with you. No crown of honour to the South is the argument you have given us!
17. The North likes to hear you. They feel confident that you shall be destroyed by some of their poets!
18. With all deference to your poesy I too will cast my dart at you. If it fall vainly to the earth that will surprise me. I overthrow a hero in every fight.
19. A pity 'tis not with the spear to which I am used—though I am now at the end of my days—that our combat is to be fought with the pick of your men of Mumha from the Maigh!
20. His head would soon be in my hands before anyone could separate us, and his heart's blood on my steel-blue spear. "Let each one follow³ his natural bent."
21. I would treat him as Conn treated Eoghan fighting for the land, or as Tighearnmhas son of Follach treated good Connhaol!⁴
22. Or as Irial Faidh treated Eibhear Fionn's⁵ four sons, or as the great hero Eireamhon treated Eibhear!⁶
23. Eibhear Fionn's race swore to great quick-spirited Iughoine, rich ancestor of the splendid host, never to contest Eire with his descendants.
24. Answer me this simple question, was there any of Iughoine's race, of those who ruled Teamhair of the fierce⁷ fights, who was not a fit⁸ heir of Iughoine?
25. Sureties for their pact were all the elements that served them, moon and un-waning sun,⁹ sea and land, flood and ebb.¹⁰
26. Of Iughoine's ever-glorious stock are the princes of the nobility of Alba. To James¹¹ belong to-day England Alba Eire.
27. Of his seed too in great Eire are the Osraidhe, the Laighin, all Leath Cuinn, Dal bhFiatach, Dal Riada too, Baisgne, Musgraidhe, Deise.
28. Had the races of Laoghaire and Cobhthach Caol stood faithful to their kin,¹² their race would have been supreme over half of Eire till the judgment day!¹³

óí," S. mc an Baidro, RIA. 23 C. 33, v. 47; or "not to depart from, be false to it," cf. "ní háil dom do óul óire," T. mcOáipe, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 128, v. 31; also "céro don éireóeán," XV. 17. ¹⁰ Magh Rath, p. 1. ¹¹ James I. ¹² Cf. "pan mbun na bréire-re," T. mcOáipe, RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 128, v. 31. ¹³ "Hill-judgment"? (beann taken as o-stem), cf. "lá an t-éire," etc.; perhaps influenced by "Fo bini braith," LL., cf. Contrib.; cf. also "co mbrath mbrudin," S. Rann. 931.

29. Do gábrad laigníg do lámh · corḡ na Mumhneac meap ón
mláig
dā bpaḡḡaoir uaḡa ḡā ḡtoig · ríot ó ríol Tuatáil Teacḡmair.
30. Dúob atáro cinn-licpe ceall · ir ur-móir apḡ-naom éipeann
'r ir dúob amú 'r an-allan · rḡot éigear ir ollamán.
31. Leat Cuinn ir leat mloḡa máir · do rḡoilreao luḡt an eolair
ḡur comḡrom an ríonn-re a-le · ḡur labḡair a mlic Dáire.
32. Mí cian do fan ríol ḡCuinn ḡcáir · ar an ríonn-re ḡ'lnir fáil
dā ngoirḡear leir mloḡa a-muig · 'r an leat-ra Cuinn Céar-
cátaig.
33. ḡearr iar rin ar mlaig léana · do rḡán a ḡarḡ a rḡeana
ḡur bean Conn ḡ'Eoḡan ḡan feill · a cḡann ir a curo ḡ'Éirinn.
34. Um ḡráḡnḡna ríar an ḡeat · do cḡoc Eoḡan apḡ éacḡac
teacḡa Cuinn ar ḡteacḡ dā toig · dā mac Cḡomḡcainn a
Cḡuacáin.
35. Náir dúit a ráḡ dā éir rin · nac ríabḡe coḡnac Cairil
ar a comḡeao ar Conn cḡoir · ḡ'Éir a nḡearna air ḡ'Éascóir.
36. Mló bar ḡtáiríom ar éloinn Cuinn · mar ar léir ro laorḡ
leatḡrom
ioná ar don ḡreim don deaḡ-rḡoir · ḡ'acme oile Éireamḡín.
37. Do bḡarḡinn comḡrile cḡoir · dā mair do leir mloḡa móir
már tú ríle ar fearr dā nḡáim · do corḡ fearḡḡa ḡ'iomarḡár.
38. Muna nḡearna ríao-ran rin · ná bíḡḡ oḡuinn aḡ aḡḡbir
éigre ríil Cuinn na ḡcḡarḡ · ra bar mḡrḡeig do bḡeasḡnaḡḡ.
39. Luḡarḡ a ḡtuarḡ Torḡna a nḡear · bíḡḡ nac ríab oḡra aḡcḡear
ḡiar ar laigḡe do labḡair · don leir-re Cuinn comḡramḡig.
40. Ar labḡair luḡarḡ ḡo tair · tuḡ air ní dearḡarḡ eolair
acḡ báir re leir mloḡa a-muig · bean don mḡumain a mḡáir.
41. ḡir í mḡáir m'acḡar rḡein · inḡean í ḡrḡain ra mair mḡein
ran cḡuir náir taḡraḡ ríam ríob · uab ní éirḡrinn an éascóir.
42. Cía dúob ba fearr í nḡac dāil · ar ḡTuatáil do teacḡ éire
iná Corb Ólum ḡan ceilt · 'r ḡur comḡaoir iao na nḡibeirḡ.
43. Carḡe do Tuatáil Teacḡmair · ar ḡuilleao ḡó dā eacḡra
ceannar éipeann ar ḡac leir · do ḡab le deaḡan buirḡe.
44. Do nairḡ Tuatáil 'r do rḡealḡaig · ar uairḡibḡ Banḡa í
ḡTeamḡraig
ḡan cḡur rḡé éloinn ḡo bḡacḡ mbinn · oirḡeo bḡar mḡuir um
Éirinn.
45. Tuinḡreao uile dā éir rin · don ríḡ-re ḡ'acḡearḡ éin-rir
ḡiamḡaoir comḡ-nearḡ ríol na bḡear · nabḡaoir comḡ-cḡearḡ
rḡé éloinn-rean.

¹ Magh Leana, pp. 94-² V. 163.⁴ VII. 4. ⁵ K II. 244.

29. The Laighin undertook to quell the active men of Mumha from the Maigh if they could get peace for their own land from Tuathal Teachtmhar's race.
30. Among the Northerns are the capitals of the Churches. Of them too are the noble high-saints of Eire ; of them now and of old are the choice of poets and sages.
31. Learned folk thought Conn's Half and fair Mogh's Half were equal parts till you spoke, Mac Daire !
32. Only a year did this division of Inis Fail last, called Mogh's Half and Conn Ceadchathach's Half.
33. Soon after on Magh Leana—I defy you to deny it—Conn took fairly from Eoghan his life and his share of Eire.
34. The evening before the battle, noble violent Eoghan hanged Conn's messengers, the two sons of Criomhthann of Cruachain when they came to his tent.¹
35. Shame for you to say ² after that that Caiseal's prince was not on his guard against fair Conn, after inflicting that injury on him !
36. Greater is your abuse of Clann Cuinn—as is clear from your bitter poem—than of any other family of Eireamhon's good stock.
37. I shall give a piece of advice to all who are alive of Leath Mogh. If you are their best poet they should stop you from arguing !
38. If they do not, let them not blame us, poets of the race of Conn of the heroes, for refuting your lies !
39. Lughaidh in the North, Torna in the South—though they were not ignorant—are the two of victorious Conn's Half who spoke most mildly.
40. What made Lughaidh mild was not dearth of knowledge, but love for your Mogh's Half. A woman of Mumha was his mother.⁴
41. Though my father's mother was daughter of good-hearted O'Briain, I will not stand your unjust pleading of a case never pleaded before.
42. Which was the better man arriving here, our Tuathal who got possession of Eire, or famous Corb Olum, they both having been the same time in exile ?
43. Where is your Tuathal Teachtmhar who, returning after his adventures, seized with only a few followers the complete sovereignty of Eire !
44. Tuathal bound strongly Eire's nobles at Teamhair never to contest with his race while the sea surrounds Eire.
45. They all then swore to the king—at the bidding of this one man—that even if their seed should have equal power, they never would have equal claims with his race.⁵

46. Níorbh ionann i leabhair rin · teirto ríograo rleacra éibir
 ir teirto na bpeap náir deapóil · ríograo rleacra éipeamóin.
47. Ré linn ba roinnmeac ríona · o'eisreac¹ ré linn oá ríola
 ioé ir blioét iarz asur meap · oo bíoó oo gnát na bplaitear.
48. Cairde oo Conaire ap treoir · deag-mac áluinn éoirpgeoil
 ramail a flaca léis oam · i-muis ro ríograo Mumhan.
49. Freasair oam gan taom tnuóda · cairde oo Conn mac úna
 pe n-a linn níorbh deag an raé · tug talam topaó céadac.
50. Cia oo béapao zeall² Cormaic · oo ríioét Saoróil glan-
 orópaic
 gé oo cógbar air mar oil · a éur pa gabail o' fíacrao.
51. Mimic oo léis turp féin · ap mac air an airn aicéir
 lion a deaglais éall na éis · caosa ap míle oo mílció.
52. Oo b'iomda mac ríog zo raé · bádar n-a ré ap a ceallac
 o'éirinn ir tap muis a-noir · oo b'innmeapao réé fíacrao.
53. Cormac ba cunnail a máic · ba raoi ba file ba flait
 ba fír-breicéam fear breine · ba capa ba coisgéile.
54. Cormac po élaoi caosaio cat · po ríolais⁶ raltair Teamrac
 'r ní fuil pa raltair zo raé · sur búr é' fíacrao-pe don-éat.
55. Oap liom féin níor éumda oúib · oraoidéac an trean-topaó
 Moz Ruic
 i n'Oruim Oamgaire na noam · 'r naé raib annrin acé
 ríabpaó.
56. Cá háit i bfuil don taob éiar · oo mall naoi-glallac mar
 mall
 oá otug ó Muir nioét a-noir · géill zac típe zo Teamraiz.
57. Pasam leat ramail oo úman · mac eacac Muis-meaoóin
 éiar
 ór ríolpaó i bfuir gan acé · na teopa caoma Connacé.
58. Cairde oo Oáicé-pe a Cairz · oo éuar zo Sliab n'elra n-air
 oap bupreao leir caosa cat · mar Oáicé móir mac fíacrao.
59. Nó fíacra éair Oái-éi · oárbh ua Oilill Molt an pí
 cáit i bfuil leat a deis-fír · ramail Suaire an gaime-eimz.¹²
60. Cairde oo Conall mac léill · nó eoan an airn aicéir
 ir a ríioét rin maic a méio · pasam asat a leicéio.

¹² Deisreacé MSS. ² Cf. "oo zeall léim bairt oo beapraoi," p. ón éainte, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 149, v. 42. ³ III. 31; VI. 119. ⁴ Tadhg takes this

to refer to Cionnaoth O Hartagain's poem, "Domán ouéain," etc., O'R. lxiii.

⁵ Cf. K. Meyer, Todd Lect. XVI. viii. 3. ⁶ "Síolaim" often as "I publish," etc. Cf. Todd Lect., vol. viii., parti., p. 62; also "níceap ríolar a réanmóir," O'Grady, Cat., p. 555. ⁷ From Cuan O Lothchain's poem, B.B. f. 89; MSS.

Mat., p. 10. ⁸ V. 174, 177. ⁹ Cf. Onomasticon. ¹⁰ K II. 412.

¹¹ K II. 42. ¹² Cf. "an cú gaime-eimz móir-féalz," C.Z. ii. 344; also A.U. 1197.

46. Very different in the books are the account of the kingly lines of Eibhear's race, and the account of those splendid heroes kings of Eireamhon's stock !
47. In their day the seasons were prosperous being assigned (to them) as a birth-right in their day.¹ Corn and milk fish and fruit were abundant in their reign.
48. Where is, as regards strength, your Conaire Eidirsceol's fair goodly son ? Read for me anything like his reign among your Mumha princes !
49. Answer me without envy. Where is your Conn son of Una. In his day—great was the blessing—the earth gave its fruits a hundred-fold.
50. Who could surpass ² Cormac of all the race of bright famous Gaodhal ? though you put on him the reproach of having been put under the cauldron's hanger by Fiacha.³
51. You yourself often read ⁴ of sharp-armed Art's son, how in his palace his household counted a thousand and fifty heroes.
52. Many a prosperous prince's son fit to be compared to Fiacha from Eire and from over-sea were to be found in his palace in his day.
53. "Constant was Cormac's goodness, he was a sage, a poet, a prince, a just judge of the Fene ⁵ men, a good friend and companion.
54. Cormac won fifty battles, he wrote ⁶ the "Psalter of Teamhair." ⁷ There is no word in that precious Psalter that Fiachaidh won any battle !
55. I think you should not have invented your story of the wizardry of the old druid Moghruith ⁸ at oxen-rich Druim Damhghaire, seeing that it was all superstition !
56. Where in the West have you a Niall like our Niall Naoi-ghiallach when to Teamhair he brought hostages from every land from Muir nIocht in the East.
57. Let us hear of your having the like of Brian son of Eochaidh Muighmheadhon in the west, from whom beyond dispute came the three fair divisions of the Connachta.⁹
58. Where is your Dathi who marched to the lofty Alps and won fifty battles, our great Dathi son of Fiachra ? ¹⁰
59. Or Fiachra, Dathi's father, whose grandson Oilill Molt ¹¹ was king ? Where have you, my good friend, one like Guaire called the "hospitable" ? ¹²
60. Where is your Conall, Niall's son, or your sharp-bladed Eoghan and their numerous stock ? Let us find their like with you !

61. Carde do clann Colmáin éadain • nó do flioét doú Sláine
íadair
deasair a gcaitpéim do éilte • clanna léill dána an deis-
éirte.
62. Carde do trí Colla éruaró • lé mbeartdoi ann nḡac bearnaró
buaró
nó commaic a fleacta roin • ioir éirunn ir Albain.
63. Carde do Miall Fíorac féis • fuair ó Dá ar a deis-péir
fíar airḡir ir fíar do míl • ir fíar do éruitneact éadain-ḡil.
64. Carde bair nḡonḡur aḡra • mac maic an Cárriais ¹ éalma
nó Maoil-féacluinne pe díol dān • nó mac Dálais éisneacán.
65. A haon ir trí fíeró nís • ma gceirdean ór éirunn dinn
beas pe níos na bḡeair roin • maḡis do mairó do feact
gcaitpáir.
66. Sé nís 'r dā fíeró níos péil • ór éirunn do deis-fleact léill
ó teact an Táilḡinn tar tuinn • ḡur an bḡior-flait Maoil-
féacluinne.
67. Míor ḡab ní d'érí éreirinn éoir • d'fuir ír éirir éireamóin
act fuil léill ir Oilill Moit • 'r do ḡrian-ra le ro-
cunáct.
68. Ir teapc má do fíoinneact ruān • an tír-re iona bḡuineann
ḡrian
mar fíoinnteap mūr an míoḡ-óil • ó níosrairó fíl éireamóin.
69. ḡoirteap Teact Tuactail d'éirunn • Cró Cuinn ir Fonn fínn-
férolin
laḡ luḡoine ir Acact airte • Críoc Cōbḡais ir Clár Cormaic.
70. Corrac mór ar trí mīle • níosḡar tria péim inḡime ⁵
ó teact mac Míleact a-noir • dā ḡabrac éirunn iubḡais.
71. Re dḡionnḡḡnaḡ teampuil Šolma • canann nḡb nár ḡan
dolbact
éānḡis clann Míleact tar muir • an treap doir d'aoḡaró
domān!
72. Do bí uplān ⁷ na Banba • aḡ cloinn Míleact mór-éalma
ó rin ḡan roinn pe nḡire • ḡo hainḡir ḡrian dḡuime.
73. Ceirte fíeró ceirte céact • do blāḡḡaró ní mōmarḡrēas
ó dḡibeirte fíl illoḡa a-muḡ • romānn níos ḡCunn éact-
éactais.
74. An tan do b'aoir do Críort éairte • pé céact mīle aḡur
react
do díbreact níos ḡCunn tar muir • 'r do beanaḡ díob a-
nḡḡḡais.

¹ "The Scabby man," i.e., Donnchadh Ua Maoilsheachluinn. Chr. Scot. 967, A.U. 1000, 4 M. 1000. ² King of Cineal Conaill. ³ Cf. poem "Éire óḡ" Todd Lect. iii., p. 427. ⁴ 1700 B.C.+1600 A.D.=3300. ⁵ Cf. Laws. Gloss.

61. Where is your race of gentle Colman, or your stock of noble Aodh Slaine ? It is hard to belie the glory of bold righteous Niall's races !
62. Where are your three hardy Collas who conquered in every fray, or any race equal to them in Eire or Alba ?
63. Where is your keen Niall Frosach who owing to his fair-rule got from God a shower of silver, a shower of honey and a shower of fair white corn ?
64. Where is your noble Aongus, goodly son of the brave " Carrach,"¹ or Maoilsheachluinn generous in paying poets, or Eigneachan,² Dalach's son ?
65. There were sixty-one kings of our race in Eire before the coming of the Faith. Few, compared to them, are—I pity you for mentioning them—your twenty-eight !
66. Forty-six kings of Niall's good stock surely ruled Eire from Patrick's coming over-sea till the true prince Maoilsheachluinn.
67. After the coming of the Faith, of the races of Ir Eibhear and Eireamhon no king ruled except the race of Niall and Oilill Molt—and your too-powerful Brian.³
68. Rare were the (other) names given to this land where the sun sets compared to the way in which " the Fort of Mead-feasts " is called after the kings of Eireamhon's race.
69. Eire is called " House of Tuathal," " Conn's Steading," " Land of fair Feilim," " Land of Iughoine," " Art's Field," " Cobhthach's Territory," " Cormac's Plain."
70. Over three thousand years ⁴ are counted in the worthy ⁵ records from the coming of Mile's sons from the East when they acquired yewy Eire.
71. Before the beginning of Solomon's ⁶ Temple—I state to you a plain tale—Mile's race came over the sea in the third age of the world.
72. Power ⁷ over Banba was held from that time by brave Mile's race which shared it with no prince, till the time of Brian Borioimhe.
73. For four hundred and eighty years ⁸ at least, your Mogh's race was exiled by us the race of Conn.
74. In the year of just Christ sixteen hundred and seven Conn's race was driven over-seas and their country taken from them.

rimde." ⁶Cf. Arch. Celt. Lex. iii. p. 24. § 13. ⁷Cf. Wind. Wört. " air-lam "; also " μαρι τὰ ρί ι ρεϊλβ ζαδ κυρε . ' ρ ζαν ι ' n-υπλάμν έανρουινε," *Som. mc an Buidro*, RIA. 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 5. ⁸From death of last Eberian King (Criomhthann) 378 till 1000 there were 622 years.

75. Céad uroaid a n-ubairt mé · a-déarainn daoibh an uair-re
 aét naé roic i n-doin-ḡeacét uaimi · a ubairnéir uile i n-don-
 uair.¹
76. Dá scluintear don ḡocal uaid · doo bḡeasaid don daoib-re
 tuaid
 cluinḡrdear o'ḡírinne tear · céad oirdeo ḡac ar áirnear.

measa do.

75. A hundred times what I have said, I would tell you now, except that I cannot at the one time recount it all.¹
76. If we hear a single one of your falsehoods about the North, you Southernns shall hear a hundred times as much as I have told you !

¹ Cf. " ní a n-ænpeēt mo roic uile . oá páirnéir le hæn ouine," *Magh Rath*. p. 166.

ḡÉ SAOILE Δ ΤΑΙΩΣ ΝΑΪ ΘΕΑΡΝΑΣ. R. McARTÚIR,
O.S.F., cct.

1. ḡÉ SAOILE Δ ΤΑΙΩΣ ΝΑΪ ΘΕΑΡΝΑΣ · ΠΑΝΝ ΤΟΝ ΤΑΝ ΠΑΡ ḡΛΩΙΡ
τ'ḡεαρḡ-ḡα,
ΙΡ ḡΟ ΒΡΥΙΛΕ Δḡ ΙΟΜΕΥΡ ΠΥΜΝ · ΤΑΡ ΛΕΑΤ ΑΜΑΙΛ ΝΑΪ ΤΙΟΝḡ-
ΝΥΜΝ,
2. 'ḡ ḡΟ ΒΕΑΛ-ΕΡΑΪΒΤΕΑΪ ΑΡ ΤΟΡΑΪ · ΑΡ ΑΝ ΔΙΒΙΤΟ ΤΟ ΤΟḡΑΡ
ΑΡ ΡΟΝ ḡΟ ΝḡΕΑΛΛΑ ΜΟΤΩ ΤΑΜ · ΤΟΥΜΝ ΝΙ ΠΥΙΛ Ο ΛΕΙΤ ΜΟḡΑΪ ;
3. ΤΟ ΒΡΥḡ ḡΟ ḡΕΥΙΡΕ-ΡΕ 'Μ ΛΕΙΤ · ΝΑΪΑΜ ΤΟΝ ΤΟΙΡ ΝΑ ΤΟΝ ΕΡΕΙΪ ³
'ḡ ḡΥΡ ΛΕΑΝ ΑΝ ΡΑḡΑΛ 'ḡ Δ ΜΕΑḡ · ΙΡΤΕΑΪ ΡΑΝ ΟΡΤ Ι ΒΡΥΙΛΕΑΜ
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ΔΙΤΙΡΕΑΪ ΤΑΡΡΝΑ ΙΜ ΕΡΕΑΒΑΪ · ΛΥΔΙΤ-ΒΡΕΙΤΕΑΪ ΙΡ ΛΕΙΤ-ΒΡΕΑΪ ΔΕ
5. ΝΑΡ ΚΟΝḡΒΑΡ ḡΟ ΚΕΑΡΤ ΜΟ ΕΥḡ · Δḡ ΤΟΙ ΤΑΡ ΜΟΤΩ ΡΥḡΛΑ
ΑΝ ΜΥΤΟ
'ḡ Δḡ ḡΡΕΑΝΝΥḡΑΪ Μ'ΥΠΤΟ ḡΑΝ ΤΛΑΡ · Ι ΜΕΙΤΟ ΥΑΒΑΙΡ ḡΟΛΙΑΡ ¹¹
6. ΙΡ ḡΑΜ ΡΑΜΛΥḡΑΪ ΡΕ ΤΑΜ · ΑΡ ΤΙΟΜΑΟΙΜ ΤΟΙΡḡ ΡΑΝ ΕΑΤΡΑΪ
ΟΡ Ι ΡΙΝ ΤΟ ΤΥḡΡΕ Δ ΤΑΙΩΣ · ΑΝ ΡΟΙΕ ¹³ ΝΕΜΜΕΑΪ ΒΙΟΡ ΤΑ
ΕΑΙḡ, ¹⁴
7. ΤΟ ΕΡΟΤΑΪ ΘΕ ΑΡ ΑΝ ΤΑΜ ¹⁵ · ΝΙΟΡ ΕΟΙΡ Δ ΕΥΡ Ι Ν-ΙΟΝḡΝΑΪ.
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ḡΕΥΙΛ
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ΝΙ ΜΟ ΤΟ ΡΥΝΝΕΑΡ ΔΟΜΝΙ · Δ ΜΙΕ ΤΑΙΡΕ ΜΑΡ ΜΑΟΙΤΩΤΙ
9. Ι Ν-ΑḡΑΤΩ ΚΕΑΪΤΑΡ ΤΙΟΒ ΡΙΝ · ΜΟ ΡΥḡΛΑ ΝΑ ΜΟ ΕΡΕΙΤΟΜΙ.
ΤΑ ΝΘΕΑΡΝΑΙΜΝ 'ḡ ΤΟΝ ΤΙ ΝΑΡ ΡΕΑΪ · ΝΑ ΤΙΑΤΩ ΑΡ ḡΕΥΡ ΛΑΜΕ
ΑΡ ΚΕΑΪΤ
10. ΤΟ Β'ΙΟΝΕΑΙΤΙΜΕ ΑΝ ΕΛΟΪ ΤΑΡ ΛΙΝ · ḡΟ ΡΟ-ΤΑΝΑ ΡΑΜ ΤΥΑΙΡΥΜ.
ΘΕΑΡΝΑΤΑΪ ΤΑΟΙΒ-ΡΕ ΝΑΪ Ε · ΚΕΑΤ-ΡΟΪΑΡ ΔΙΥΜΕ ΑΡ ΤΟ ΠΡΕΝΙ
11. ΑΝ ΡΟΪΑΡ ΡΙΝ ΡΥΑΡΑΙΡ ΡΕΙΝ · ΥΑΪΑ ΜΑΡ ΕΑΤ ΠΥΙΤ ΕΙ-ΡΕΙΝ
ΚΕΑΤΥḡḡΤΕΑΪ ΔḡΑΙΒ ḡΟ ΒΡΥΙΛ · ΚΟΡΕ ΙΡ ΡΙΟΙ ΕΙΒΙΡ ḡΟ ΡΟΙΝ
12. ΝΑΪ ΡΑΙΒ Ι ḡΕΡΕΤΟΕΑΜ ΕΡΙΟΡΤ ΕΑΙΤ · ΤΟ ΚΟΡΝΑΜ Ι Ν-ΙΟΜΑΡΒΑΙΤ
ΔḡΥΡ ΜΥΡΕ ΤΟ ΤΑΜΝΑΪ · ΤΡΕ ΤΟΡΝΑ ΑΝ Τ-ΕḡΕΑΡ ΑΜΠΡΑ
13. ΝΑΪ ΡΑΙΒΕ ΤΥΙΤ-ΡΕ ΜΑΡ ΡΙΟΡ · ΝΑ ΕΡΙΟΡΤΑΙΤΕ ΤΟ ΚΟΜ-ΤΙΟΝ.
ḡÉ ΘΕΙΡΥΜ ΡΙΝ ΤΟ Β'ΕΙΤΟΙΡ · ΤΡΕ ΒΑΡ ΜΒΑΟΙΤΕ ΙΜ ΠΥΙΛ ΝΕΙΒΙΡ

¹ XIV. 69. ² XIV. 1. ³ XIV. 22, cf. the same words used with different senses, "βαὶ κρεαὶ ḡαν τóιρ τιμε να ταιὶβ" "irreparable ruin," Δ. Ο ΤΑΛΑḡ, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 278, v. 4; "νί κρεαὶ ḡαν τóιρ ó τ'άναḡς, poem "νί τ'αλ ḡαν κυννε," by Mac Con Ó Cleinḡ, TCD. 1281. ⁴ XIV. 36. ⁵ XIV. 41. ⁶ XIV. 34, 35. ⁷ XIV. 2. ⁸ XIV. 32. ⁹ XIV. 33, 37. ¹⁰ XIV. 23. ¹¹ "ḡολιάρ" is trisyllable. ¹² XIV. 22. ¹³ Cf. "ποιεαὶ ἀρ πολυαμḡιν," 3 S.; "πο κορρμαḡλεαὶ ροḡεαὶ πḡβεαὶ Δ βρυḡννḡβ βεαὶλḡν," 4 M. 2224; O'Dav. gives "Foich" "attack." ¹⁴ "ρε λḡν ρḡό νό ι ḡεαḡς κοḡαḡό," RIA. 23 F. 16, p. 202, v. 18. ¹⁵ syll. short. ¹⁶ ? MSS. τ'ονα. ¹⁷ XIV. 33, 37-
¹⁸ XIV. 3.

[A detailed answer to XIV. The poem is superscribed in RIA. B. iv. 1, "ἀν τ-ἀρρεαρσορ ὁ μασιλῶναιρε σστ." to which C. O. Conor of Belanagare (who owned the MS.) added "γενεὰ πλαιοί. A.D. 1560; Δ ἐς A.D. 1629; Δ ἐξ A.D. 1608," but from internal evidence and from the other MSS. the poem is certainly by R. McArthur.]

1. Though you think, Tadhg, that I did not write¹ a single verse of the poem that angers you, and though you act towards me as, you know, I would not act towards you,
2. and, though hypocritically in the beginning of your poem you promised to respect me owing to the habit I have chosen,² none of that respect is shown me by Leath Mogha;
3. because you say against me that I belong not to the pack or the quarry;³ that the world and its vanities have followed me into the Order in which I am;⁴
4. that I do not understand a word of your text;⁵ that I am insolent,⁶ crooked in my ploughing,⁷ given to rash and biassed judgments;⁸
5. and that I have not kept properly my vows;⁹ as you speak of the moderation enjoined by the rule of my Order, (?) and bid fierce defiance to my Order¹⁰ in the greatness of pride of a Goliath,¹¹
6. and compare me to the ox which has nothing to do at milking time,¹²—since such was your disposition, Tadhg, it was not strange of the ox
7. that the swarm¹³ stinging¹⁴ him should be shaken off by him! (?) I began my argument by refuting your "comparison,"
8. destroying it as well as your pride. I am no "ploughman of crooked ploughing" nor have I done anything, as you say, son of Daire,
9. against either my rule or my religion.¹⁷ Had I done so, it is the man who has not looked behind him after putting his hand to the plough,¹⁸
10. who should have boldly cast the stone, I believe, against me! You forget that the first "benefit" that you attribute to your line of kings
11. is not the one (*i.e.*, Christianity) which you say you got from them (if so be that you got it from them at all!) and you therefore think yourself entitled to defend in this contention Corc and Eibhear's race up to him
12. who had not the faith of adorable Christ, and (at the same time) to condemn me, because the noble poet Torna
13. who was not—according to you—a Christian, is defended by me! Though I say that, possibly in your crazy love of Eibhear's race

14. ʒo meaptau-pe a mbeit rin • pe ngein Cpiopt 'na ʒcpiopt-
tauoetib.
m'amapur noea n-ionʒnao • oip ip riu fein ap eiontae
15. pan ʒcontabairt i bpuil me • cia ap a otabpa Cpioptairde
an trae meapap tupa a tauos • ain-cpioptairde oe oe
ʒairm
16. Topna eizeap ler haoma • cperoeam Cpiopt 'r na n-apu
aprtal
amail ap pollup to eae • ip in pann ounta don oan
17. ap a noeapnair tap leat fein • aiceo o nāp euire to
eaitreim.
aetmao aineperomeae amain • no an luet eto don cperoeam
eair
18. cia len tuatins a tuinge • nae don cperoeam cpioptairde
aomail eipeirge mic oe • as cup oimbris pan mbit oe
19. 'r aomail eipeirge na ʒcopp • i ʒcomōail Cpiopt na ʒcomae
map to pinne an peanoip paop • Topna ap pus ʒaopais
naom
20. ap mbāp lleil asup Oaiti • amail ip pus ap Oipin
to ba pine na Topna • 'r to cpero i noia ʒoapota ;
21. Muna noiulta riu ʒo nuao • ap e-uʒoapāp fein ʒo fuap
to pann oeipio an oana • nae e Topna ap bapanta.
22. ip oa noiulta riu-pe rin • ba o iomōa minā asup rip
as poeiotheao oa ʒae leit • opai bāo oeapmao cumine
23. ʒan a oiulta ap topaig • nae e Topna an traoi ʒopail
to pinne don pann don oan • o nāp binu lib a compaō.
24. llāpū upa rin pēaea fein • to cup let inntleae i ʒeill
to na oamib le na binu • beit as eipteae pto comntinn
25. ionā pāo oa n-abpaō riu • an oan aeā i mbēal ʒae fir
ʒomaō le Topna euto oe • 'r nae baō leit an euto
eile ;
26. ʒan to oeapbaō pan penieap • na bpuilmto ʒupab leipean
an euto ūo oile don oan • nae puil opt-ʒa na ʒaeān
27. aet an oeapbaō oeapbaō oūn • ʒupab le Topna an pann ūo
eaoōn iao-pom o'ʒaʒail pan • i ʒpic eipeann ap eim-pan
28. 'r a otoiʒeae o lām ʒo lām • o laitib ² Topna ʒo ap lāib
ip a bpaʒail ʒo oipeae • ap plioet puao ip reim-ʒʒiūbneao.
29. ip pollup map rin to pēip • ʒiaōnape a aomāla fein
Topna eizeap ʒo paibe • ip in cperoeam cpioptairde.

¹ II. 54. ² Cf. " ap peao pē laete to lāib," " ní móp nae éan-laite
o'ʒioip . pe ʒloip éanlaite ip aingeal," A. Ó Dálaig, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 146,
v. 5 ; p. 242, v. 32.

14. you may think they were Christians before Christ's birth!
This suspicion of mine is natural, for you yourself caused me
15. to doubt as to whom you mean by "Christians," seeing, O Tadhg, that you think of calling a pagan
16. Torna the poet who confessed the faith of Christ and His Apostles—as is clear to all from the final verse of his poem,
17. of which you have written, as you imagine, a refutation—not to be counted among your brilliant exploits!
Who, except an unbeliever or one who abandons the true faith
18. could possibly swear that it is not part of the Christian faith to confess the resurrection of the Son of God and to profess contempt for the present life
19. and to confess the resurrection of the body in the meeting place of all-powerful Christ, as Torna¹ confessed it, the noble old man, whom Patrick won
20. after the death of Niall and Dathi, just as he won Oisín who was older than Torna and who believed in the God of glory?
21. Unless you deny (as no one yet) vainly and on your own authority, that Torna is guarantee for the last verse of the poem.
22. If you deny that, there would be many a man and woman jeering at you in every way for your thoughtlessness
23. in not having denied at the beginning that Torna, the great sage, wrote any verse of the poem, since you did not like its language!
24. Think! With your great intellect would that not have been easier for you to prove to those who like to listen to your argument
25. than to hold that one part of the poem on everyone's lips is by Torna and that the rest is not by him?
26. For, at the period at which we now live, there is accessible to you no proof of his having written the whole of the rest of the poem
27. except the proof which proves that he wrote that verse too—namely this fact that all the verses have been always found together in Eire,
28. that they have been handed down from Torna's days² to ours, and that they are couched exactly in the style of the sages and old writers.
29. It is clear, then, by the evidence of his own admission, that Torna, the poet, was a Christian.

30. Éiligh ionnna an mbreic n-daoiréa · fuasair orim dail nárb
faoiméa
im ain-éireomheac do éornam · 'r daor éú féin ran aóðar-ra.
31. ór tú do rinne an t-aóðar · fáir éairisir mé do d'áimnadh
nó ir tú do éuil a ráo ríot · beic luait-éireicéac leic-
éireicéac.
32. Ort-ra má éarla dearmad · ó luaid fuasair dearbá
iar mbácaó Duinn an trinnir · do breic oiréirec áimrisin
33. mar tugad ceannar na ríó · ar béal ¹ Éibir o'Éireamón.
Narab iongnadh lib a-nor · do loctugad ar a lor
34. san urriam uaid do éorua · ar doi n-daire ir ealaóna
ar d'aoimib daorua buó éin · ar ron go n-iarfardé réir
35. a n-uacaráin reac gac fear · bíoó go mbeic níor ó náio-
rean ;
asur an uair do fonnrad · nac ir in reab báo dúcéar
36. nó ar d'ual do rinnreap ó éar · céir an róireap i n-oiréac.
Mór do éarairne ar éorua · 'r má daire i gceiream
mórdá
37. nar éire mar a-daire féin · ir dearb gur éiríoráde
eirféin.
Tug doir ar an aóðar · cia díob díligéar do d'áimnadh ;
38. nó an cóir ceiream do gairm de · an ceiream rin i bfuile
doir d'áimil féin ór dá réad ² · ceiream éorua ir éirir-
léax ;
39. óir ón reiríoráir ir deimín · ná fuil ann claoclóir ceiream
acé don ceiream nam go cóir · mar dearbuar bmaéna
naom-póil.
40. ná bíoó fóir ort na éirearb · na áimris i gceic Éireann
surb é éorua an tobair fir · ar-oillam gacá éisir
41. surb uime rin do togad · ó leic éinn ó leic mógaó
mar orde múinte díob rin · náll éamra ir Corc Cairil.
42. ir cóir daoiré go éiríor d'áim · ar an aóðar rin an tan
a-daire gurad ua o'fíor · ir o'ealaóain ná an t-éigear
43. cuairt ran lairín maorótear lat · ir réad ⁴ "qui se exallat."
Do b'fearr daoiré éanam dá réir · do géadéa ro reir-
leabruib féin
44. rean-focal gnáca ar rean · 'r fearr teicéam ná taimeam
ioná beic ro éirir gaire · as fine éinn ir máige
45. as gealla rearta go cuairt · it don i n-áir móir-fluaid
ir dá ráda go neam-nár · do éorua doir ar reacrán

¹ Cf. "bél," Contrib. ² "réad," "likeness of a thing," O'R. Dict.; O'Don. Suppl. ³ i.e. T.'s faith and yours are as I proved (Supra 18), both Christian, therefore if his is not the true faith, neither is yours. ⁴ vid. Var. Lect.

30. Revoke now the condemnation--an inadmissible one--you passed on me for defending an unbeliever, and condemn rather yourself on that score!
31. For it is you who committed the deed for which you try to condemn me, or it is you who should be called "rash-judging and biassed."
32. In case you may have forgotten about it, Lughaidh gave you a proof for the judgment of noble Aimhirgin, given after the drowning of Donn the elder son,
33. when the headship of the hosts was given ¹ to Eireamhon rather than to Eibhear.
Do not now wonder that you are blamed
34. for not showing respect to Torna owing to his age and his knowledge; seeing that obedience would be expected from even aged men
35. to their superior above all, even though he were younger than they; especially in this case as it is no hereditary possession,
36. or one due to the elder by legal right, that the younger inherits. Great is your contempt for Torna! Even if you do belong to the true faith
37. in which you say he did not believe, it is quite certain that *he* was a Christian.
Therefore consider which of you is worthy of condemnation;
38. or, is it right to call faith the faith you have, since according to your own admission Torna's faith and your law of faith are two things ² like each other; ³
39. for, from Scripture it is certain that there is no change in the faith, but that there is only one true faith as St. Paul's words prove.
40. You may take it as certain that in his day in Eire Torna was the well of knowledge, high master of every poet,
41. and that therefore he was chosen from Conn's Half and from Mogh's as teacher of both Niall of Teamhair and Corc of Caiseal.
42. You should therefore, I am sure, as you think yourself richer in knowledge and science than the poet,
43. search the Latin you boast of, and examine the phrase *qui se exaltat*.
It would be better for you to act on a proverb which you will find in your own old books,
44. a common proverb of our ancestors, "Better flee than remain," that is, than to be a laughing stock to Conn's race and to the folk of the Maigh
45. undertaking to stand stoutly alone against the great host, and saying shamelessly that Torna blundered

46. ó nác raiḃ áct tuine ann • ṽárb fétuiri ṽol ar mearbáil
mar baḃ turá mo truaige • rriopas na héigre uairle
47. nó Dia na heagha ó ririo • rrocta an ecluiri fíruinnis
'r ṽá máḃa sur ṽ'eagla Néill • tug air ṽá fíatónaire
féin
48. san ṽol i ṽteann-ṽasra rir • mar ar ḡnát luét an fáitcír ;
ir a uráct a ṽuigrin • ar a ṽasra ṽon cor rin
49. le Corc Cairil 'r le na fíréim • i ṽfíatónaire an ríog ríḡ-
Néill
ir le hiall i n-aḡarḃ Cuirc • san ṽruóct báḃa na labhairt
50. ir nác raiḃ ṽon ṽruing ollam • ṽarab ḡnát beit aḡ
molaḃ
a ṽtruat na ṽfíatónaire féin • 'r ṽá ḡsur' ór cionn ḡac
éinéil
51. 'r náir élaon re connailḃe riam • aḡ ṽéanaim leactruim re
hiall
ar beit ṽó-ran aic an coiri • ṽon éloinn Ír rin ó Ultaib
52. mar fuair ṽaḃ an raioi fearac • ḡo hinntleacṽac áitearac.
An raiḃe fala an uair-re • ba doṽa nó ba nuairḃe
53. ná faltanar éloinne Ír • re rhuóct Tuacail ṽá ṽtuigṽi.
hac leo torcúir Tuacail féin • aḡur a áṽair ba-ḃéin
54. fíacárḃ fionnólaḃ fuair blaḃ • ir Conn cróḃa céaḃ-éacac
'r Roiteacṽaḡ mac Maoi i ṽraḃ • ríá ran ṽroirunn a-
ṽuḃairt
55. 'r Muirṽaḃac Tíreac iar roin • rean-áṽair Néill hoi-
ḡiallaḡ.
Sinnriri Néill nac leo torcúir • i n-éiric na n-éacṽ n-orḃaire
56. Oillil mac Slánuil náir élaic • ir Airḡeacḃmar mac Siopláim
Éilim mac Connra maile • aḡur Mál mac Roéruḃe.
57. ir nac le com-ṽráitṽib Néill • clanna Eocáḃa Doimléin
ṽo rḡruorac ó ḡrúic ṽunairḃ • i n-eairi éóḡirḃ Concobaír.
58. 'S nac le nEocárḃ áṽair Néill • ṽo ṽi-céannaḃ réacḃa féin
an rí ṽéirḃeanaḃ ṽib roin • ríomṽar ar Éirunn éacṽaḡ.
59. Caolḃaḃ mac Cruinn ḃaḃraoi a ainm. • hior éúir cairuiri
ṽo comḡnaidom
rhuóct Ír aḡur Éibiri ḡlain. • ḡiḃ móri ṽiḃḃ tarcúir mar
roin
60. a rean-fala ṽo éuarḃ ar • ir níor nuairḃeacḃ faltanar.
an ríle ṽ'fúil Éibiri fínn • corḡuil ṽá ṽréacḃaḃ ḡo ḡrinn

¹ K II. 258.² 4 M. 56.³ 4 M. 157.⁴ K II. 131.⁵ 4 M. 356.⁶ K II. 136.⁷ K II. 146.⁸ K II. 240.⁹ K II. 258.¹⁰ 3 Collas, K III. 360.¹¹ K II. 364.

46. being only a fallible man, (as though you were alas! the very spirit of noble poetry
 47. or the God of wisdom from whom spring the streams of true knowledge!) and saying that fear of Niall—according to his own confession—caused him,
 48. as is the case with timid folk, to avoid disputing with Niall; though it is evident from his argument then
 49. with Corc of Caiseal and his tribesmen in presence of King Niall, and with Niall in Corc's presence that there was no trace of his being led astray by his partiality,
 50. and that he was not one of those poets whose custom it is always to praise their chiefs in their presence and to extol them over every other race,
 51. and that he was never led away in his patriotism to argue unfairly for Niall, though he was (a strange crime!) of the race of Ir of the Ulaidh,
 52. as Tadhg—the wise sage—has discovered so cleverly and so successfully!

Was there any feud at that time older or fresher

53. than that between Ir's race and Tuathal's, of all the feuds you know of?

Was it not by the hands of Ir's race that Tuathal¹ himself fell and his father, famous

54. Fiachaidh Fionnoladh,² and valorous Conn of the hundred fights,³ and long before these Roitheachta, son of Maon,⁴
 55. and afterwards Muireadhach Tireach,⁵ grandson of Niall of the nine hostages?

Was it not by Niall's ancestors that fell in requital for their crimes

56. Oillill mac Slanoll,⁶ no gentle hero, and Airgeadmhar⁷ son of Siorlamh, Elim mac Conra⁸ too, and Mal mac Rochruidhe?⁹
 57. And was it not by Niall's kinsfolk that Eochaidh Doimhleinn's¹⁰ race were driven from their country to the extremity of Conchobhar's province?
 58. And was it not by Eochaidh, Niall's father, that was beheaded—look it up yourself—the last king of them (Ir's race) mentioned as ruling fierce Eire?
 59. Caolbhaidh son of Cronn Badhraoi¹¹ was his name. His death was no cause of binding friendship! Though many of the races of Ir and famous Eibhear fell thus,
 60. their old hatred flickered out, and they did not keep up their mutual hate.

A poet of Eibhear's race would, naturally, if he bore carefully in mind

61. an falcannar ro ulltác · pe mall d'éir na n-iomairgal
do cup comráir Torna ar gcúl · go n-iarrfaó claochlóo
féarúin
62. d'iúl éigin ar a mbiaó daé · i bfiadónaire fear Mumhan
ir nac maorfeadó tré fiol n-Ír · báir Torna gur an airo-piú.
63. Maic d'ám mo barmail inn. · Tú ar naó mealláó faoilio
rinn
'r guró fearaige Corc an áis · ar fon gur feacain teasbáil
64. ar mbeir dó-ran an céro-feacé · na dála aó Torna éigear
'r ar a beir na piú Mumhan · do hoirpneao mar ba cubaó
65. i ngrádaib ² fileao go fíor · do féir gnátaig ar rein-pioú
gan fearaí ar feanear élaon · gur nac rgarfaó reirean faor.
66. lí ó aineolur fuair Corc · gé fuair aóbar dá d'úraé.
Do faoilfínn fóir amlaó rin · gurao fearr-ra i sceiró
gairgíó
67. ioná Corc tré teiceam dó · go n-a ceirpe caéa arméa
ó mall i mbeannán Éile · dar coirgeao a gcomhéirge
68. 'r gan é ní ba goirpe dó · ioná longphort i loéna
'r cura dar leat gan baogal · aó cup romao it donar
69. tabairt trodamóir an neart · do leit Cuinn uile i n-éirfeacé.
léet muna mbeir go gcuala · uat féin it fuiglib fuara
70. méao dar n-aibhir ir náir roin · i maclaéaib an éogaó
aó tabairt oile gairge · ar Conn do b'ole an aicne
71. tré gan rabaó do cup dó · romne rin go mloú luada
an tan tug amur longphuir · ar loéan go n-álmurcaib.
72. a élaí éireann éar ir éuaró · freagairó ⁴ ro cógbaró
dar n-uail.
- Rug ó fóir parréar opaió · ollam ór gac ollamain
73. a-veir gurab mó atá d'fíor · ir d'ealadaí aige a-nioó
ná aó Torna an t-uóar fean · aro-ollam innre gaoréal,
74. a-veir go oíobha roillre · don fuirinn atá i n-oirce
'r eolur nac fíic romne ro · pe barr ar míle bliadán.
75. Tigro a rgoia banba · ar gac taoib ir in am-ra
d'féacain a míorbál n-eoluir · Dia na héirge d'ait-beoóao.
76. Cairbeannaró dó dar n-oeaíra · aó léigean leabráir feanóa
líroí fonn ois dar ráraó · a rrué éirge an iol-dánaig

¹ XIV. 15. ² Pl. of "gráda," "grade," usually "gráda," but cf. "feacé ngráda na bfiaró ar fao . rígin do éaíó tar éimias"; "mar aomair ríbre feacé ngráda," S. mc an Baíro, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 148, v. 5, 8. They are also called "garma," cf. "gan feacé ngrama do gabáil," F. ón Cainte, RIA. 23 E. 15, p. 181, v. 8, where they are enumerated. ³ III. 29, v. 163, 164. ⁴ "freagairam, "I go to" (?), cf. "freagair ir móir oimbuair dó . ran easlaí ionnfuaí aroíra"; "freagair an teag éall um nóin"; "pian na hanman easla an báir . a bfreagair ir aóbar uatbáir," A. Ó Dálaig, RIA. 23 G. 27, p. 233, v. 25; G. 23, p. 274, v. 3; p. 296, v. 3.

61. the hate of the Ultaigh for Niall after their mutual slaughter,
in order to refute Torna's words, have tried to upset the
reasonable account
62. by some piece of learning that might look plausible to
the men of Mumha, and he would not state that Torna
because of his being of Ir's race was partial to the High-king !
63. Pardon me my opinion in the matter. I think you have made
a mistake, and that Corc the slayer was wiser than you,¹
seeing that he avoided contradicting Torna
64. (for he had at first been Torna's pupil, and when he was king
of Mumha, he was ennobled as was fitting
65. in the grades ² of poetry exactly according to the customs
of the ancient kings), and did not rely on perverted versions
of history from which he could not have backed out with
impunity.
66. Corc did not foolishly invent such things, though he had reasons
urging him to do so. I should moreover even imagine that
you are braver in arms
67. than Corc seeing that he fled with his four armed hosts away
to Bearnan Eile from Niall, by whom his (Corc's) hosting
was forbidden,
68. though Niall was not nearer to him than the camp at Lothra,
and seeing on the other hand that you (without risk to your-
self as you think) purpose alone
69. giving battle (such is your strength!) to all Conn's Half
together! ³
Had I not heard you display in your stupid words
70. your excessive (shameful!) ignorance of the rules of war,
putting reproach on Conn's valour
71. for not giving warning beforehand to Mogh Nuadhat when
he attacked the latter's camp and his foreigners, I should
not have believed it.
72. Ye poets of Eire, North and South, come,⁴ raise your cries of
joy! There has come from the gates of Paradise to you a
sage beyond all sages
73. who says he has more knowledge and science to-day than
Torna, the ancient sage, high poet of the Isle of the Gaoidhil !
74. who says that to those who sit in darkness he will give light
and knowledge unknown for over a thousand years !
75. Come ye schools of Banba from every side to-day to see the
marvels of lore of the God who brings wisdom to life again !
76. Show him the difficulties you have in reading the ancient books.
Drink here satisfying draughts from the stream of wisdom
of the many-gifted man,

77. *ir nā congḡad̃ rīb a mēar* . supb é Mac Dáire ón tḡaoib̃ tēar
nac̃ cuailabair ionñe rō . do d̃ul tap cāc i n-easna.
78. Óir *ir ead̃ aṡpirṡear uair̃* . *ir in b̃fōrḡar lām̃ le Cluain*
ḡo b̃fuair reirean ḡo nua 'noir . *curo do c̃nuar na ḡcrann*
n-iomuir
79. *dar̃ éirḡḡ buinne an b̃ailḡ fir* . *a fuarān easna sup̃ f̃ic*
ó t̃oirṡear éḡre ar tuile . *aḡ rḡoltaḡ a ur̃b̃ruinne.*
80. *Daoine eile d̃ā rāḡ fir* . *ḡo b̃fuair reirean an t-eo fir* ¹
ó doib̃ill ban-f̃air̃ r̃il m̃bloir̃ . *at̃ā aḡe na carair̃.*
81. *Muna ḡereoir̃-re a n-éabairṡ* . *tḡir̃ ar ḡac air̃o d̃'f̃eac̃ain*
ionḡantair̃ m̃oir̃reac̃aroin . *rein-ḡliab̃ Callain re n-iōḡnab̃.*
82. *ḡr̃ ead̃ a éḡre uair̃le* . *d̃'easla oir̃b̃ire uair̃-re*
'le tuar̃arḡb̃ail ar m̃eas̃ b̃laoirḡ . *nā f̃reasḡair̃o do ḡairm*
d̃iom̃aoin.
83. *Anair̃ aḡ b̃ar n-oir̃ib̃ f̃ein.* . *oir̃ fuair̃ m̃ire rḡéala ó 'né*
sup̃ab̃ é an t̃aḡḡ d̃aoib̃ aṡnir̃ . *at̃ā ann nā haṡraḡir̃,*
84. *'r nac̃ fuil aṡt all-ḡlōr̃ ḡan f̃r̃ém̃* . *na aṡm̃oltaib̃ air̃ f̃ein*
'r nac̃ c̃nā iomuir̃ mar̃ aḡ c̃lor̃ . *fuair̃ reirean ir̃ in b̃fōrḡar*
85. *aṡt c̃nā caoḡa d̃ā nḡoirṡear* . *c̃nuar na ḡcrann nem̃-f̃ir*
ñoir̃-c̃earṡ
t̃r̃é nac̃ f̃aḡar uat̃a iar̃ rḡéit . *t̃oir̃as̃ aṡt ainb̃ior̃ uile ;*
86. *ir̃ f̃ór̃ nac̃ é an t-eo fir* . *mar̃ f̃aoilear̃ f̃luas̃ ḡléibe M̃ir*
fuair̃ ó doib̃ill cloinne Cair̃ . *aṡt m̃as̃ eo fir̃ ain-eoluir̃ ;*
87. *ar̃ an aḡb̃ar nac̃ f̃aicim* . *aṡt f̃ir̃ aḡe aḡur̃ air̃linn*
i n-ait̃ an m̃oir̃-eoluir̃ c̃eirṡ . *do f̃aoil d̃'Éir̃unn do t̃abairṡ.*
88. *D̃ā b̃f̃iar̃f̃air̃ḡr̃o cia an t̃oir̃ir̃c̃ear* . *ó ḡliab̃ Callain do*
com̃preas̃
aṡc̃im ar̃ b̃ar n-éḡre rīb . *ḡab̃ail oib̃ ar̃ b̃ar nḡair̃ib̃*
89. *an uair̃ do m̃ear ḡac M̃uñineas̃* . *do c̃onnair̃c̃ m̃eas̃ a builḡ-*
rean
ḡein an-m̃ór̃ uair̃e do b̃reit̃ . *aṡt luḡ f̃éir̃ uair̃o ñior̃ tuir̃-*
m̃eas̃.
90. *D̃'Éir̃ ar̃ rḡaoileas̃ ar̃ ḡac leat̃* . *ó air̃o-f̃ile an t̃aoib̃e tēar*
aḡ f̃óḡra a t̃oir̃c̃ir̃ fir̃ d̃ó . *am̃ail do c̃ualair̃ f̃óḡla*
91. *ar̃ ñool̃ d̃ó ar̃ a c̃liaṡaib̃ fir̃* . *ñi c̃us̃ do f̃luas̃ ḡléibe M̃ir*
d̃'iul̃ aṡt a r̃as̃ nac̃ r̃aibe . *T̃or̃na i ḡereireas̃m̃ é̃r̃ior̃t̃uir̃e*
92. *'r mar̃ riñ sup̃ ionḡnas̃ d̃am̃-ra* . *ool̃ ar̃ roñ a m̃ac̃raim̃la*
'r dom̃ c̃oir̃-ra i ḡcom̃air̃ re d̃am̃ . *ar̃ d̃iom̃aoin t̃oirḡ r̃an*
eas̃raḡ

¹ Cluain Ramhfhada, a castle of the O'Briens on the bank of the Fergus, Co. Clare. Cf. Tribes of Ireland, O'Don., p. 79. ² Cf. M. C. II. 143. ³ v. Var. Lect. ⁴ M. C. II. 143. ⁵ ó d̃álais̃ applies "eo fir" to the Blessed Virgin!
"an t-eo fir̃ ór̃ d̃uiniḡ d̃ia," RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 278, v. 4. ⁵ Co. Clare.

77. and let not the thought restrain you that he is only Tadhg Mac Daire of the South (of whom you have not yet heard as surpassing all in wisdom!).
78. It is related by him that in the Fergus near Cluain,¹ he has found again some of the fruit of the trees of knowledge,²
79. whence there arose the spring of the knowledge-bubble, so that the cold spring of knowledge rushed forth³ in flood, swollen with wisdom bursting its banks!
80. Others say of him that he got the knowledge-salmon⁴ from Aoibheall who is his friend, the prophetess of Blod's race.
81. If you do not believe him, come from all parts to see a greater marvel still, old Sliabh Callain⁵ in travail!
82. Yet! noble poets, lest I be abused by you for announcing a rumour no weightier than a shell, I warn you not to answer a useless summons.
83. Remain with your own masters. I have been told since yesterday that it is the Tadhg whom you know of who is meant—do not stir!—
84. and that his self-praise is only empty boasting, and that not nuts of knowledge did he get, as was said, in the Fergus
85. but blind nuts, called the fruit of the tree of ignorance and wrong (because when they are shed the only fruit got from them is perfect ignorance);
86. and also that it is not the knowledge-salmon, as the folk of Sliabh Mis think, which he got from Aoibheall of Clann Cais but the knowledge-salmon of ignorance;
87. because I do not see that he has aught but visions and dreams instead of the correct abundant knowledge which he pretended to bestow on Eire.
88. If you ask what was the progeny conceived by Sliabh Callain I implore of you by your poetic profession to restrain your laughter,
89. for when every man of Mumha who saw the great swelling imagined that an enormous progeny was being brought forth there was born—only a field-mouse!
90. After all that had been announced everywhere by the Southern High-poet as to the wondrous knowledge he had conceived—as all Fodla heard,
91. when he got on his vision-wattles, he gave the folk of Sliabh Mis no other knowledge than this—that Torna was not a Christian,
92. and that therefore it was strange for me to come forward to defend a man like him, and he compared me to the ox who has nothing to do at milking-time,

93. 17 1017 7ac comrāð fua7 . beit a7 boðmu7að a7 7cluar
7pē n-a mionca nað 7puas¹ 100 . a-veip 7oðar na 7oðar
94. 17 neite éaotroma oile . a7 7on éibip '7 a éloinne
100 éuip lu7a7ð éeana a7 7cúl . '7 7u7 a7ip ma7 pēarūn
95. ionnu7 7o 7cuipēað 1 7céill . 100 10al 7Cai7 7á 7fuil 1
7céim
7o 10u7ann uarð 7pēaspa lān . ma7 épēito cāc 10ā
éomrāð.
96. a7 7o a 7pēaða 7óola . a7aib an 7-eolup mō7-7a
100 éopnam an 7aoibē 7ear . fuaip Mac 10āipe na éomimear
97. nað fuaip 7uile āta lōi7 . Mac lias nā don ollam cōip
10'ēis7ib leite mo7a 1 n7ar . 100 mīle a7 7pī éeao
bliaðan.
98. a7 7in 10aoib an fua7ān 7ip . le ba77 7aoipe aip 100 7p7
lē7 élaoi an 7pīom-7ā7-7e élann 7Cai7 . leað éuinn le
7aip7eao n-eolup
99. don éao7a 7ann 7ia7 17 7oip . 7io7 ó lām 7o lām 1
77oil
7é na7 lēip 100 na mear7 7in . épīo77a7eao 7opna
éi7ip.
100. 7ion 7o mbeit a7ann éin-neao . 100 7lioct uapa7 na n-éi7ear
an aibīo iona 7fuil mé . nī corhūil 7o mbia éo7oðe
101. 7an 7ear 100 élaoi7e ón 7aoib 7ua7o . 17 minic lé 7u7að
bua7o
leip an 7cloi7eab² 7oi7e 7o . ón éeao³ Mac 10āipe 10iom7ac
102. 17 7u7 bea7pað 7eoin ma-le . a7 an 10apa Mac 10āipe.
longnað 17 ceaoi7i7eao 10uit . 10éanam a77ip a7 7on
éuip
103. a7 nað 7aibē épēoēam épīo7 . '7 na7 éomēao a77e an
aip7-7io7
'7 nað léi7eap 10am éuip 7uðaip . bea7ān 10'a77eap 7a
lu7a7o
104. eao7ama7 nað 10iult7a 7ib . 100 beit 1 7oil7e an épēomī.
Mā7 luai7-7pēit leit-7pēit beip7eap . 1a7 7clor 10ā 7ann
100 7pēiteam
105. aet 7upab éi7in annūin . ann 7ac ionað 10on 7alīam
7ip an 10pūing 7ā 7aoil7eao cāc . éin-nī 100 beit 7e a 7āð
106. nō a-10ēapað 7o 7fui7eao 7oin . ba77 7ē 7āð na n-impea7ain
nī corhūil 7o 7cuipēað cāc . don éam7ean 1 7pīc 7o 7pāt.

¹ 7puas used as noun and adj. Cf. "uc ! a 7puas 17 7puas an meallao" "mō na 7puas ma7 tā 7ib-7e," a. Ó 10ālai7, RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 295, v. 5, 7. 7puai7e is noun. Cf. supra 46. ²Cf. Eriu, viii. 97. ³? an élaoi7eao MSS. ⁴an éeao MSS. ⁵i.e., Cu Raoi slain by Cuchulainn.

93. and (among much other stupid talk) he kept deafening our ears repeating often—poor fellow¹—the “benefits of his benefits,”
94. and the other silly things which he brings forward for Eibhear and his race, things which Lughaidh had already refuted, but which he now brought forward as the truth,
95. so as to persuade Dal gCais, with whom he is in high esteem, that he is giving a perfect answer because (as he says) everyone believes him!
96. There you have, ye poets of Fodla, this wonderful lore for the defence of the South which Mac Daire invented in his “comparison,”
97. a lore which not Guile of Ath Loich,² Mac Liag nor any other proper sage of Leath Mogha ever hit on for nearly 1300 years past.
98. There you have the knowledge-well which broke forth in excessive wisdom and which enabled Clann Cais’ chief prophet to crush Leath Cuinn with mighty learning
99. —though the Christianity of Torna the poet is not evident to him as it is evident in any fifty stanzas of the poems in the East or the West handed down in the schools!
100. Though there may be none of us (O.S.F.) belonging to the noble race of poets, yet it is unlikely that my habit will ever be
101. without some wearer of it in the North to defeat you. Many are those (of the North) by whom victory has been won by the sword³ ere this, since⁴ the first proud Mac Daire⁵ (?)
102. and it has now inflicted the fool’s tonsure on the second Mac Daire! It is strange that you think yourself entitled to argue for Corc
103. who had not faith in Christ and who did not keep the commandments of the High King, and on the other hand I am not entitled (a sad business!) to put forward a few words for Lughaidh,
104. who—we know you will not deny this much—enjoys the light of faith! If that be a partial or rash judgment which is given when the judge has heard both sides
105. so that he must wait for the opinions of the people in some part of the world whom their neighbours might imagine to have something to say, or whom their neighbours might declare
106. to have some statement to make which would settle the case in dispute, then it is unlikely that anyone would ever settle any case!

107. 'S ír leit-þreit luat þugair féin · ar tásna Torna ír ríog
 néill
 ír 'do 'ðamnar a þug þam · an eaglar tóir agur tlar
108. 'do þreiteamnar ó 'ðligeað · í n-agað na n-eitþiceað
 a-veir go mbíð leo 'do gñát · neite nuarðe þe a þáð
109. þe huét þfír-éiall mbreiteþe 'Dé · ar a noðamantar iaro-
 féin ;
 agur arír 'do 'ðamnar · forþla a mbeapap ar talman
110. 'do þreaðaið 'ðiorþa 'ðlige · ír in maitear þuiblðe.
 Sé go nðaðar-þe 'do lán · go tpeorad ior cloinn Tál
111. mar þad il-éirto¹ 'dā þfuil lat · beit 'dom múineað-þa í
 noaðaðt
 ír ríð ag þairm 'doctúir 'ðiom · oic an 'dāðadct 'duit go
 ríor
112. a þóþna oram þa þreað · 'do þreit ar an þraoirþoneað
 þā cup íar 'otuisþin a gñiom · an tan þin ó 'ðligeað þior
113. þa n-éirþeact amail ar gñát · a þraoirþone go hiomlán
 an tþāct ar þollur nað tiz · leir an gcoingiol 'ðligeap
 þin
114. le haiteþeactar ó cupðe · ná le haðmāil þíþinne.
 'Deap ar ar maite þuot féin · þar n-airto-þiz ar tēamþaiz
 tþéin
115. íar gþeirþeam þar háirþeað líð · tpe lugeað an comāirþin
 ní hé amāin na þroðair þoin · ríogþað leite Cuinn go
 ngoil
116. act í þriaðnairþe 'do þeact · gceatþar þar an naom-þroiceap.
 ír corþuul þur þeacair 'duit · teact go 'dāna ríor þan
 tþoit
117. lét don þman þóþuime a-bāin · 'do ríol éirþ go móþ-ðāil
 í n-agað þeact 'r 'dā þiceað · atā 'do þéir na þfileað
118. na n-airto-ríogaið ór 'ðoinn þreað · 'þfuil éireamōin íar
 gþeirþeam.
 ír 'dā 'otugmaoir na þiz 'duib · tar þíþinne an tpeandair
 gþoin
119. Toirþealþad þa þman þar mbrað · nað biað þman ina
 donar
 'dōiz gíð ad 'dāna ar cloinn Tāl · líð-þe féin þór gomað
 náir
120. þan act 'dā þiz í gcomair leat · le móir-þeireap 'r 'dā
 þiceað.
 atā an oirþeað þin agaið · 'do gñait-þéar ionn þar 'otagþaið

¹ il-éapto a grammatical blunder (?). Cf. XII. 5. note.

107. And (according to that theory of yours) you yourself have given a rash judgment in the dispute of Niall and Torna, and you have condemned all the judgments which the Church, East or West
108. has passed legitimately on heretics, who usually say they have some new arguments to advance
109. against the true senses of God's word owing to which they are being condemned ; and also you have condemned
110. most of the righteous judgments of earthly law passed for the common good.
- Though you have bravely undertaken among Tal's race—
111. together with the other poor professions¹ you have—to teach me Theology (styling me "Doctor") bad indeed is your own Theology!
112. since you condemn me for passing judgment on the penitent when I had understood his state of conscience, passing it in that (*i.e.* your) case quite justifiably
113. without hearing—as would be the usual case—his whole confession, since it is evident that he has not come with the requisite conditions
114. namely with heart-felt contrition and truthful confession. Certain it is that it was in your own interest that you did not count your High-Kings reigning in strong Teamhair
115. after the coming of the Faith, because they were so few in number, not merely in comparison with the valorous kings of Leath Cuinn
116. but in comparison with your twenty-eight who ruled before the holy doctrine came!
- Likely enough it is difficult for you to come down bravely into the fight
117. with your single Brian to do credit to Eibhear's race, against the forty-seven kings of Eireamhon's race, who according to the sages
118. were High-Kings over Boinn Breagh after the coming of the Faith.
- And even if we conceded to you as one of your kings—against the truth of good history—
119. Toirdhealbach O Briain—your great hope—(so that Brian should not be your only king!) I think that, proud as you are of Clann Tail, you would be ashamed
120. that there should be only two kings on your side against forty-seven!

You have such an inveterate habit in your arguments

121. ar bap neitib féin a-mháin . do cup a-mac le móp-dáil
somad corrhail dámad lib . an dá fícead 'r na reáct níg
122. o'fuil léill ó ceart a rean . do gab éirinn iar scertheadm
so scuirpe rib bap bfuil féin . ór éionn ríog mac nlrpéil
123. 'r ór mpeirib gá d'áim rib . an oirpéir ir an fuinib ;
mar ar upur a áicne . óo madoithige ar a máicne
124. 'r ar bap mbladmánn ar gab leir . ar bap n-aon úrpan
úorunne
ir an scorpóin ppiot mar ppiot . leir nac bésrad tre bit
ríor
125. dá mb'é éan-lám don éluice . ó éionn tuatáil 'r luóine
ór fusad do úruim fáille . an corpóin 'r a bórune
126. do péir mar deapbócam úuib . as cup gluarpe ar téx
luáir
ór é rin téxa oípeac . na ppuitead 'r na rein-rspribnead.
127. 'S iongnad liom ó fíor t'aoipe . ar an gcúir noctaim
úaoib-pe
coimneap éas-corrhail a-noir . do éionnrghnám mar do
éionnrghnair.
128. ir doilge liom ioná rin . an ní éuala dá ráib lib.
Do gluar bap bpeapz so meapda . i n-asáir léill níg-
teshpa
129. ar ron h-an-flaice do gairm . do ríol n'éibir ó úppiot
ppairnn
dap leat nac eualair a-puam . so rin a poubairt pí-niall
130. mar do báidair so diamrac . as paotpuáad pead blisóna
clann éiréamhóin na n-arm ngeap . an t'pác fuapair i
n-érotreán
131. cpaob do dealbáid do 'Dál gCair . nap cúirur ua Tál péc
air¹
na don oigpe ceart na éeann . ar fuil ríogácta éiréann
132. do péir an ceirt so oípeac . do bí gan éionn rin m'ilead
pe oteáct gabáltair oile . ar Críe n-ápparú nluóine,
133. asur pór ran scpaob scéadna . da gab tsoib dá
tairbéana
sur cáillpead an cúro oile . o'uarlib Críe laogaire
134. an t'pác-ra áct amáin ua Cair . a sceart ar éirinn iat-
glair.
Már fíunneac rúo a tairg . mar deapbóap úúinn ar gab
air
135. por² dáil do báir pe Dál gCair . 'r an onóir uatá
fuapair
ar an moó roin so bfuile . nac scunmhige ir nac tuige

121. of boastfully exaggerating your side, that, probably if you possessed the ninety-seven kings
122. of Niall's blood who by right of their ancestors ruled Eire after the coming of the Faith you would exalt your race over the kings of Israel's race,
123. and over the emperors indeed of the East and West ! As is easy to guess from your boastfulness as to Brian's single race
124. and from your bragging in every way about him, and about the crown he got (the way he did get it ! and he never would have got it
125. if he had been the only player in the game !) from Tuathal's race and Iughoine's—through whose apathy the crown and the cow-tax were robbed from them
126. as we shall prove to you, adding a note to Lughaidh's "text," for such is the authentic version given by sages and ancient writers.
127. I wonder for the reasons I give you that one of your age should attempt to make, as you have, such an unequal comparison.
128. More painful still to me is the other thing I learn from you. Your anger blazed against Niall, king of Teamhair
129. for calling Eibhear's race "usurpers" (hence the dispute—you never, you say, heard the expression before !)
130. as you had been, at a time when you found Eireamhon's sharp-armed race weak, working secretly for a whole year
131. on a pedigree of Dal gCais in which you put Tal's descendant—arbitrarily ¹—as the one only rightful heir of Eire's royal race
132. exactly according to the law obtaining among Mile's sons up to the coming of another invasion ² into the old Land of Iughoine !
133. trying to prove in every way in that pedigree of yours that all the other princes of Laoghaire's Land
134. at that time except Cas' descendant lost their rights to green-grassed Eire !
- If the other version be true—as is proved to us from every source—
135. your love for Dal gCais, and the honour you got from them, has blinded ³ you so that you are so disposed as not to remember and not to understand

¹ ΔΙΡ, "will" (?), cf. "τῆς εὐδαίμονος τοῦ ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως τοῦ Ἰουδαίου . . . τοῦ ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως τοῦ Ἰουδαίου," *RIA*. 23 G. 24, p. 250, v. 4 ; "τοῦ ἡρώδου τοῦ βασιλέως τοῦ Ἰουδαίου" (spite of them ?) *RIA*. 23 E. 15, p. 181, v. 20 ; also *infra* XXIII. 8, 9. ² The English, cf. XI. 1. ³ *πορ* *οὐδὲ* (all MSS.) is strange, 2 Sg. Infix. Pron. is never -s- (*Eriu*, i. 155).

136. Fíunne an tseanchar uapail · léige gac laoi it fear
duanail.
Sro mó do ghnótuig Mac Liag · 'r áitear ua lopeáin² ar
brian
137. ná riú-re ar éinead Cair · gá bfuile ro réasoluinn eoluir
dá mbeiróir a leicéro rúo · do leic-breic amail rug tú
138. le brian i n-aghaid céille · 'r fíunne na rein-éigre
do ríspiorfardé san éirdearú · le hollamniaib na héirdeann
139. a n-anmanna go hollam · ar polla na n-ollamán.
Ó 'o-éicear duit sup éigceart · ar beic na fínnreap
o'éirdear
140. cur éirdeamóin 'r a fíil rin · re n'éirdear re ríol n'éirir
nac éig-ceart duit-re Dál gCair · ríuóct an tróirir
Cormaic Cair
141. do cur ór éionn na gclann raor · clainne Caréais 'r a
gcom-ghaol
maicne Caréais go n-a nghaol · ríuóct an trínirir iad ardon
142. Eogain mór po ba mac glan · o'Oilill Ólum ríú Mumán.
Táinig eobuinis caogao ríuó · ar ríuóct Eogain mór go
ríor
143. ór an Mumáin go meadóir · go Cormac mac Muireadóis
asur san áct dá ríú déas · do ríuóct Cormaic Cair na
otréas
144. na ríuógaib ór Mumáin mór · pollur bar leactrom aighir.
Forála a bfuil i leic Možad · mealla ar reilb beic dá
gcomnam
145. fa Dál gCair mar élanna Cuinn · dá gcur le seandair
meapbail.
Ir léir mar rin ran am-ra · cia do ní an tseabao tarra.
146. a-déara rluag Cairil Cuire · sup diom-buair dóib do
labairt.
Díod a demin agat féin · don umir áirne ar do fréin
147. ór éionn Éirdeann mar ríoga · go bfuil cur naé in-ríoma.
An fear d'éarbar ar tríochar. · ma gceirdeam uail dá
ríomáir
148. ná háirnéir oppa ó ro amac · an dá ceactar d'éirdeanac,
ná brian bórúne iar gceirdeam · dá mbeic nac beapad
reirdean
149. an ríuógaé amail do buing · go cealgac do Maol-féacluinn.
Ó móg Corp go ré Críomáinn · dóib ar reilb beic na
ríuógaib
150. an dá ceactar a-beir rinn · nac cóir o'áirdeam ar Éirinn.
A haitle luóine mór · tá an t-octar rin ó cóir

136. the truth of the noble history which you read daily in your old poems.
 Though Mac Liag¹ and Aitheas O Lorcaín² did greater service to Brian
137. than you to Cas' race, (whose guiding star you are!), if they had given such a judgment as you
138. in favour of Brian and against good sense and authentic old poetry, their names would certainly be quickly blotted out
139. by Eire's sages from the roll of the sages!
 Since you think it unjust owing to Eibhear's being the elder
140. to put before him and his race Eireamhon and his, is it not unjust for you to put Dal gCais descended from Cormac Cas a younger brother,
141. over the free tribes Clann Carthaigh and their kin, race of Carthach's race and their kin being all sprung from the elder son
142. Eoghan Mor, fair son of Oilill Olum King of Mumha.
 There came a band of fifty kings, in truth, of Eoghan's race
143. ruling happily over Mumha down to Cormac Mac Muireadhaigh,³ and only twelve kings of many-flocked Cormac Cas' race
144. ruling Mumha Mis. Clear now is your biased argument.
 A tricking of most of the folk of Leath Mogha out of their rightful possession
145. is your defence of them by putting them (as you put Clann Cuinn also) by means of your false genealogy beneath Dal gCais.
 It is clear now who is guilty of "crooked ploughing"!
146. The folk of Caiseal of Corc will say your words were a disservice to them!
 Be assured that of the number you count of your race
147. ruling Eire there are some who should not be counted. As for the twenty-eight you mention before the coming of the Faith
148. do not for the future count the eight last; nor would Brian either after the coming of the Faith be counted, except that he seized
149. the kingdom, as he did, by treachery from Maoilsheachluinn!
 We assert that those from Mogh Corb to Criomhthann who held power as kings,
150. those eight, should not be counted over Eire. Coming after Iughoiné Mor these eight are in law

¹ Brian's poet. ² No reference to this poet. Perhaps "Ṛ Δ ΔΙΤΕ Ó ΙΟΤΤΕΔΑΙΝ," but CUAN Ó ΙΟΤΤΕΔΑΙΝ does not seem to have been a supporter of Brian. ³ K III 310.

151. iona n-anflataib uile · mar don ne brian bórume.
 ní cóir a n-ainm do cup ríor · go brát i molla na ríog.
152. ar nuimhir ríog innre bpeas · ní cóir an naonbair d'áiream.
 éireamón céro-rí banba · don cloinn mílead dá dtarla
153. gē do beanrao trí haicme · real ríge dá ríog-máicne
 fuair realaídeact na ríge · clanna luigídeac mic lte
154. rluoēt ír asur éibir fínn · na trí haicmeadā deirim.
 sealad dōib ar an nōr ro · as rparinn mū im ríogadēt
 bḡola
155. an clann rin éireamōin féil · an trát fa héotréan iaro-
 réin.
 Mar rin oí i noiarō a céile · ó pé Comhaoil mic éibir
156. nar daingnis don dponz na féilb · go tuicim Reactarō
 Rig-deirs.
 lugoine tárrarō an trealb. · leir torcúir Reactarō Rig-
 dears
157. i noioḡail éasa a buime · Mača miolla mongburoe.
 Ir é an tluḡoine Mōr fa · do daingnis ríogadēt ḡola
158. dō féin ir dá ríol ó roin · do péir an reacta an uair-roin
 é do daingnis a dírlaēt · d'fuil éireamōin mic mílead
159. do péir na n-uḡdar dtrómōa · domar uile an teann-
 ponc-ra.
 San cup ina ceann féine · ná a clann-máicne dá éire
160. tuingro aicme éibir fínn · 'r ḡac dponz oile fa éirinn.
 Do tuingreao d'aitearḡ éin-fir · bíod go mbeoír níor
 tréine
161. san ceart ar bit ó ro a-mac · d'asra dōib ar tḡreib
 teamrac.
 Tugrao dō an uile umlaēt · dar nairḡ oppa ran connrao.
162. ḡac rlan ḡac móro dár ḡnát ronn · tugrao mača pé comall.
 Oisre an lugoine dubart · Tuatál Teactmair nar tubad
163. ainmhir faoa dá éir roin · an cuing céadna por ceangail
 ḡonad dē rin ar an-flaēt · ḡac ní d'fuil éibir arn-ḡlain
164. dar tairḡ reilḡ na ríge ó roin · ar cloinn lugoine ir
 Tuatál.
 Ar ríogadō aca ón am roin · dponz do éirig le a n-ancoil
165. i n-asarō na fola ríog · le huabair ir le hainbḡíor
 ḡá dū i noiarō na mionn ra · do ḡluairpead ulca iomōa
166. ḡibé do tairḡreao san ceap · a raoraō ó ain-flaitear.
 Orḡlarō ar fead an domāin · rligḡte earumla ir cogarō

151. all mere usurpers as well as Brian Boromhe. Their names should never be put in the Roll of Kings.
152. Among the kings of Inis Breagh these nine should not be counted.
Eireamhon was first king over Banba of all Mile's stock,
153. though three other branches wrenched a period of rule from his princely house, the race of Lughaidh mac Ithe,
154. that of Ir and that of Eibhear Fionn, just these three. They were thus for some time fighting for power in Fodhla
155. with the race of noble Eireamhon when these were weak. Thus was it with them all through, from the day of Conmhaol, Eibhear's son,
156. so that no family of them grew strong in possession till the death of Reachtaidh Righdhearg.¹ Iughoine then got possession. By him was slain Reachtaidh Righdhearg
157. to avenge his foster-mother's death, gentle Macha of the yellow hair. It is this Iughoine Mor who secured the rule of Fodhla
158. for himself and his seed after him according to the law of the time. It is he who secured Eire's fidelity to the stock of Eireamhon son of Mile,
159. according to the weighty authors who all admit this important point. That neither they nor their race after them would ever oppose him
160. is what Eibhear Fionn's race and every other in Eire swore. They swore, at the dictation of a single man, that though they might be stronger
161. they never would assert a right to Teamhair's Dwelling. In the pact he bound on them they promised him complete obedience.
162. They gave him for fulfilment of their promise, every surety every oath then usual here.
This Iughoine's descendant, namely unconquered Tuathal Teachtmhar
163. a long time after imposed the same bond on them. So that therefore every king of bright-sworded Eibhear's race
164. who strove for the kingship after that against Iughoine's race is a "usurper." As for those who were made kings afterwards, those who perversely arose,
165. especially after such oaths, in pride and injustice against the royal stock, great evils would ensue
166. if anyone openly attempted to absolve them from the crime of usurpation. A person so arguing opens up everywhere in the world the road to rebellion and war

167. 1 n-aḡarò na bḡpḡonnḡarò ḡceapc · 'do 'oio-ḡḡaoilearò a móir-
neapc.
'Do tuiḡḡearò 'oimòra ó ḡioḡarib · an talḡan-ḡa 'oibḡlionarib
168. 'oapab 'oainḡean 'do ḡonnḡarò · ar còiméarò a ḡean-cònnḡarò
'r ar còḡḡbáil ḡiḡe ḡo ḡáim · ar a ḡceapc 'r ar a ḡcoḡáin
169. móro uapáilearòta ir umla · 'do buain 'do luēt earumla.
'Óamrò ceatuiḡḡearò 'don tḡir · ḡan comall a mionn 'dā ḡiḡ
170. cia 'do ḡioḡarib ḡa 'oóman ¹ · 'dār còir flaitḡear 'd'alcuḡarò.
'Dā molḡar 'dóib a-ḡiḡe · 'dol 'do tḡoio im an ḡiḡe
171. na huairle cūirḡo ḡa ḡmaēt · ir mionnuiḡḡear 'dāib umlaēt
carde ar talḡain ḡi ḡa nīm · lén héoir a 'dearḡarò ḡin
172. ḡearò don uairḡe ḡā 'dām 'dó · 1 ḡiḡe ḡan ḡḡearabḡa.
'Díor nar cḡer'oea'oar na ḡiḡ · luḡoine ir Tuatál na 'noir
173. ceanglarò 'dóib ḡéin 'r 'dā ḡluēt ḡin · ḡa móro umla ḡir
ḡuinrò
muna ḡḡuair tú ro ḡḡḡoḡtúir ḡéin · naē ḡuil 'd'ḡiācāib ar
an méro
174. 'bíor ḡan cḡer'oeam 'Dē 'Dúilḡ · caomna an 'ulḡir ná'óuirḡ,
aēt ḡurab éoir leo ó cearc · ḡan comall mionn mar ar
'oleaēt
175. ḡuil aráile 'do 'oḡḡarò · 'r mnā a cēile 'do còimēcḡarò ²
ní ro naē ḡaḡar aḡ ḡárò · aḡur naē éoir a ḡárò
176. ḡan tuiḡḡearò 'noimòra n-a'òbal · ó Ríḡ lḡime ir naom-
talḡan.
ḡéac ḡéin a leat Moḡa móir · an ḡḡaice ar 'tarḡ beapḡarò
ḡeoin
177. tar éir ro-'óócair clann ḡcair · ar a ḡuapánarib eolair ;
llo an ḡḡuil beapḡarò ó cluair ḡo cluair · ó don ḡḡá'cair 'don
taoib tuarò
178. ḡan ceat 'dā cḡaróib 'r 'dā eagḡa · 'do ḡéir iúil na ḡein-
ḡḡearcḡa,
muna áitḡe ḡurab ḡḡéas · ḡḡḡi'ò'cḡar ar leit cūinn na
ḡcéat
179. ḡur 'dúilḡarò ḡaróil 'dā ḡceapc · 'r ḡur mionnuiḡḡearò
uapáilearò
'do clóinn luḡoine ir Tuatál · ir 'don ḡioḡarò ó cḡuacain,
180. amail 'do ḡeac ³ luḡarò ḡuinn · 'r mar 'do mārò mac Uí
'Domnall.
'S mār amlarò ḡin ḡearmār 'uib · a leat Moḡa Cairil cūirḡ
181. ní tiubaircḡar 'dó 1 ḡsolarib · mo'ò uḡoir ná 'deas-ollam.
Cairḡo ḡaróite an taoibe tuarò · 'r ní 'eagḡa naē béapḡaroir
buarò

¹ An 'oóman MSS. ² Cf. Wind. Ir. Texte I., p. 831. ³ "ḡeacain," "I recite," then "tell." Cf. "ḡeacairḡe," one who recited bardic poems.

167. against the rightful princes for the ruin of their authority.
He would deserve the wrath of the rulers of both sides of this land
168. whose fixed principle it is especially for the guarding of their ancient pacts, and for the keeping of their realm in peace, and for the sake of their rights and crown,
169. to exact from fractious folk an oath of vassalage and obedience.
If it were lawful for the country not to keep its oath to its prince
170. what king is there in the world ¹ who would be thankful to be king? If one approves of nobles fighting to get the kingship,
171. nobles whom the kings reduce to subjection, and who swear obedience to the kings, where under Heaven is there a king of whom it could be said
172. that he was even for a single hour without "opposition"?
The kings Iughoine and Tuathal though unbelievers
173. bind to themselves and to their race the men of the West by a vow of obedience—unless perhaps you have found in your Scriptures that there is no obligation
174. on those who do not believe in the God of the Elements to keep the Natural Law! But that they can justifiably neglect to keep their bounden oaths,
175. and can shed each others' blood and woo ² each other's wives—such a thing is not said by any prophet and cannot be said
176. without incurring the dire wrath of God and of the saints on earth.

Look now O Leath Mogha! Do you see the fool's tonsure on Tadhg

177. after all the excessive confidence Clann Cais placed in his streams of wisdom! Is he not shorn from ear to ear by a single friar from the North,
178. who, judging him by the ancient documents, shows no respect to his genealogy or his learning, as he cannot prove false what is written about Leath Cuinn of the hosts,
179. namely that the Gaedhil gave up their own claims and swore vassalage to the race of Iughoine and Tuathal and to the kings from Cruachain,
180. as Lughaidh told ³ us and Aodh O Domhnaill too.
If that be the way he stands by you, O Leath Mogha of Corc's Caiseal,
181. he will not get in the schools the respect due to author or good sage.

The Northern sages—not that they fear they could not defeat him otherwise!—

182. tagra móráin nac bia ceapc . ne fear all-glóir gan
éireadct
leir nac faḡṡar uó uol ar . aḡt táinfeam ar an reanḡar.
183. 'S munab le reanḡar ḡrinn ḡéar . aḡt le cuma a aḡnro
féin
cuirfeap romme Mac Dáire . cornam rlóis na rean-illáige
184. uó ḡéabá fear a fneasra . nac féarfa corḡ a ṡeangá
u'fíor-labra láin uó leic Cuinn . aḡ ríor-ráó reicead¹
capuill.
185. Tuig a ṡarós ḡé ṡaoi ríó-ḡlic . ḡur éirḡ uib toirḡ
ḡóroirḡ²
aḡ cairḡrin táir ar ṡorua . fáir léis táir uíomhoṡad
186. fa gan teadct i n-aḡaró Néill . Ua Tuadail 'r luḡoine féil
ḡá raibe a uṡáinis romme . ruar ir in réim ríḡraóe
187. ḡo Mílead Earraíne ór éin . na ríḡaib ar fáó fúinro
aḡt maó naonbar uá aṡle . ir oḡtar ríá n-luḡoine
188. tré an-flaite uíob uó ḡairm . an élanu rin éibir uó cairḡ
ruḡe rir u'éir ḡac éadṡa . móro umla 'r uairealaḡṡa.
189. Uó raó éire rin ḡo léir . uó Tuadail 'r uá uéis-fnéim
mar uó cuimnis ḡo fearac . a oisre Míall mac Eadac
190. i uṡráḡ tagra ne Torua . aḡ caomna ceapc a aḡaróa
ir in rann i na roubarc . nac tiobraó baile i Muimain
191. uó ríuóḡ éibir fínn gan troto . nó cior ar uó éloinn
Tuadail.
Ór léir ro bpaṡraib maite . ḡo bfuile aḡ uéanam airis
192. u'éir bar raóṡair uó Dál ḡCair . ionn ḡac éaḡcór uá
nṡearnair
aḡam anoir ó éiróe . ar uó bpaṡraib mar uṡige
193. aḡ iarraó maicme uó réir . mar múinear bpaṡra an
troirḡéil ;
ar leic Moḡa ar a nṡearnair . éaḡcór ne Dál an uéaḡ-Cair,
194. 'r ar leic Cuinn uó cairḡeáó lib . uó éur fa éiaḡ lét
fuiglib ;
ar an éisre uó buime . ir a mallaḡt uó cuillir ;
195. 'r ar ṡ'fine féin uár cuill ríó . uíomóa ir mío-ḡnaoi fear
bfuinn ;
'r ar aicme nÉibir uile . uár bean tuṡa réo éromic
196. ar leigead ḡo ro reaca . uó ríḡaib gan inéreacáó ;
'r ar Dál ḡCair roó éur i ḡéim . uá naḡar cuillir caic-
réim.

¹ ? perhaps referring to visions, etc. ? but bull-hides were used (K II. 348). ² For the legend whence ḡóroirḡ gets this sense, cf. Kilk. Arch. Jour., 1912, vol. 42, p. 106 ; Gadelica I., p. 171 303

182. will have to allege many falsehoods against this man of vain boastful language, by means of which language however he will not escape though he take to abusing true history (?).
 183. If it be not by means of accurate correct history, but by means of the inventions of his own brain that Mac Daire propose to defend the folk of the Maigh
 184. he will get a man to answer him whose tongue he will not, by his everlasting talk of horse-hides,¹ be able to check from giving a full answer for Leath Cuinn.
 185. See, Tadhg, clever as you are, you have undertaken a useless ² task in insulting Torna for his refraining from abuse, and
 186. for his not attacking Niall descendant of Tuathal and of noble Iughoine (Niall whose ancestors before him were in the regnal lists
 187. back to his ancestor Mile of Spain as kings over the Land of the Sunset except only nine after and eight before Iughoine)
 188. when Niall gave the name "usurpers" to Eibhear's race which strove against him (Niall) after all their crimes and after their oaths of vassalage.
 189. Eire undoubtedly yielded that vassalage to Tuathal and to his goodly race, as was wisely recalled by Tuathal's heir, Niall mac Eochach,
 190. when disputing with Torna in defence of his ancestral rights, in the verse where he said he would not give a townland in Mumha
 191. to Eibhear Fionn's race without a fight, or else without getting its rent for Tuathal's race.
- Since it is clear from your gentle words that you are making reparation
192. for all your (wrongful) efforts on behalf of Dal gCais, and for the injustice you have committed, confess now from the bottom of your heart asking your own folk as is right
 193. for pardon as the Gospel tells you to do ; asking Leath Mogha's pardon for the injustice you have done to fair Cas' race ;
 194. asking pardon of Leath Cuinn which you strove to cover with shame by your words ; asking pardon of Poetry your foster-mother whose curse you have merited ;
 195. and asking pardon of your own race on whom you have brought the anger and displeasure of the folk of the Sunset Land ; asking pardon of all Eibhear's race from whom you, by your new-fangled history, have robbed
 196. those of their kings who have been left them hitherto ; asking pardon of Dal gCais who put you in a position of power and for whom you certainly have not won glory !

197. 'S mar do maó Corc fear do mhaíl · tabair do luáir a maí
as maó ar éan fúir an rí · mea culpa peccavi.
198. Ofráil é'urruigíte iarróin · do Dia le haitrige nglóin
ir maicim-re dúit a-noir · muom féine sáe a n'earrair ;
199. ir aicéim oiré díoláid dún · so d'uilleam ríot Dé na n'óul
tré ar ríot anro i ngleann na n'ear · ir nae deámaoir
ar ain-eol
200. aínail aubairt Torna · ór deimhín fúir na talma
do fearé i n'óil do b'aire · as ro a Chríot do coimeirge.¹

zé saóile.

197. As Corc in the South yielded to Niall, so do you yield to Lughaidh saying what Corc said to the king, "Through my fault have I sinned."
198. Offer your prayers, then, to God with pure contrition, and I pardon you now all you have done to me ;
199. and I ask you to pardon me so that we may win the peace of God through being at peace with each other in this vale of tears, and that we may not walk the path of folly,
200. since as Torna said, it is certain that the men of earth are going to be judged by Thee, O Christ ! This is what we pray ¹ of Thee !

¹ "Coma₁ic," "supplication, cf. Gl. Wb. 31d 19. Confused with "coma₁ice," "protection" (?)

ní sūais liom t-urcár a doo. taúg meoáire cct.

- I. Ní sūair liom t-urcár a doo · bioo go mbíoir oíonag
deas-laoe
rḡáctmar pet airm sūr anoir · t-airm féin ní hiao do ḡlacair.
2. An t-airm nua a mhe í Domnail · ariab áil do lám
o'foglaim
lugaíoe ír baogal do neac · ní fuil ré io lám go oíneac.
3. Do fadail mé a mhe í Domnail · sūr ḡnāt aḡaib ceapc
comluinn
neac ar a mbiaó fear 'r a luēt · ní mīr baó caíte t-urcár.
4. Atá an file an fear dāna · 'r an tí ḡlacar naom-ḡrāda
aḡ cur oíam pe rāile · aḡaib 'r go fíu an úcāie.
5. Má do caíteir fear mar cāc · t-urcár muom ní móíoe ar rḡáct
beas mo bhoíog na caíteam oíro · rḡinnio na hairm don
cārraig.
6. Atá leatcrom oíam a doo · ar fear ar n-aiguir ar don
oírcear dām a fíoinneac roin · amail a-oéar im deaḡar.
7. Learḡ liom mar onóir oot fuil · bḡeas do cūba i n-aḡaib
ruió
a leigean oíam ír learḡ dām · neim-learḡ do dān pé oéanam.⁷
8. Ní nār leat ná oíre a doo · dā oḡaḡa ríó reancur clon
baó nār liom-ra ar mo loí · clonac ríolla i reancar.
9. Ní baó toibéim don tadoib cūar · aím-learḡ mé fá aíteir uaim
aóbar béime don tadoib cear · éarḡar líó é mar aighear.
10. Tar ḡac leatcrom dā bfuil ann · i n-aínm oé do clóo do rann
malairc⁸ urcāir uaim tar air · do bēar ar inneall⁹
t-amair.
- II. Do bēar mo fḡeasra fearoa · ar bar noān ḡā ní ar learḡa
ní i moó bur roí-binn líó · mé cūige ír mairḡ do éisnig.

ní sūais.

¹ XVI. 15-20. ² i.e., Torna. ³ Lughaidh. ⁴ R. McArthur. ⁵ A few MSS. have the following—*an t-ucāie uilleac* “na hoḡlaio muimnig a mbéal. na habhāro mé ná [ionā] tú: na labhāro i ḡcār anbíg. do bí mīre mif[ḡ] rāiru [fārru].” *An t-ucāie muimneac do éan an fḡeasra* po “leat eoḡaíneceapcnoāa ír úire rluais. flactóo na bḡleao n-óil nac oúbrāo a ḡcuar: ḡan ḡlāpóroa reamrós na ḡcúir do luao. laibeoirā o'āimōeoin nacúige cūar.” ⁶ i.e., XVIII. ⁷ “neim-learḡ do dān pé oéanam”; “aímlearḡ dāimra inoéanam,” MSS. ⁸ Gen. “malairc,” cf. “pe luēt malairc an mairḡar,” p. ón cāinte, RIA. 23 L. 17, p. 103, v. 15. ⁹ Dealing with, adjusting, managing, etc., cf. “indell” Wind. Wört; also “ḡo rilleac na rúl ní fuil. rúm acēt inneal ar oícaib”; “ar ríur innil doóāine. rírim iúl ar óḡ-mūie”; “ríó-mārcac innil eic oúib,” A. Ó Dálaiḡ, TCD. 1340, p. 51, v. 13; RIA. 23 G. 23, p. 148, v. 10; G. 24, p. 180, v. 7; “r do ní a haímneapc-ra o'inneal,” S. Mac an bāiro, RIA. 23 C. 33, p. 236, v. 15; “ón eirḡ innilte póro-mín,” C. meoáire, RIA. 23 G. 24, p. 28, v. 25. ¹⁰ XVIII.

[This is a formal poem answering XV., and apparently an introduction to XVIII. which answers the same poem in detail. It is subsequent (cf. v. 4) to the McArthur poems. It is headed in Z. M. L.² by the words "Soisín coimharc anghro ó t'adhs mac Dáirne ar doó ó Domnaill me noul i scomadó fheadhma do t'adhairc air do réir uirio asallmha," and in I. G.³, by "Roḡa an coimharc anghro ó t'adhs m'adairne ar doó ó Domnaill m'ad noul i s'ceann fheadhma do t'adhairc ar a d'án do réir uirio asallmha." In N² there occurs a detached stanza :—

"Cairtread uiréar leat a t'adhs · élaoiréar tú ór ḡad airio : 1 n-eirir ar ladhmad lib · isoir an dá m'ac roin m'leasó," on which, in his description of the MS., O'Curry says : "I have never seen this quatrain before, and have often wondered what could be the meaning of the first line of McBrody's answer in reference to O'Donnell's other poem." Can not this "first line of McBrody" refer quite appositely to XV. 18-20 ?].

1. I fear not your shot, O Aodh ! though the host of good warriors feared your arms till now. Not your proper arms have you now taken up.
2. This new arm (poetry) O son of O¹ Domnaill, which you would wish your hand to learn, is of little danger to anyone. You cannot hold it straight.
3. I thought you practised fairness in fight ! You should not have shot at a man with whom another man and his folk with him are engaged.¹
4. The poet,² the rimer,³ the man in orders,⁴ and even the fuller⁵ among you are all attacking me.
5. If you, like the rest of them, have aimed at me I fear not your shafts over much. Little reck I of your shooting them. They glance off the rock.
6. I am hardly treated, O Aodh, in this contention. It is right that I say what I shall now say.⁶
7. Through respect for your blood I like not to refute your falsehoods. Yet to let them rest on me (unrefuted) I like not either. Your art is over-ready to invent them.⁷
8. You are not disgraced, nor ashamed, O Aodh, in perverting history in your argument. I should be ashamed that the perversion of a jot of history should be found after me.
9. Anything by way of reproach to the North I am loath to bring forward. Anything to revile the South you love to use as argument.
10. In return for the harsh words in your poem, in God's name, to refute your verses, I will send other⁸ shots back to deal with⁹ your attack.
11. I will now give you, though⁹ unwillingly, my reply¹⁰ to your poem in a way that you shall not find pleasant. So much the worse for forcing me to it !



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THE IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY was established in 1898 for the purpose of publishing texts in the Irish language, accompanied by such introductions, English translations, glossaries, and notes as may be deemed desirable.

The Annual Subscription is 7/6 (American subscribers, two dollars), payable on January 1st of each year, on payment of which members will be entitled to receive, post free, the current volume or, at the option of the member, any one of the earlier volumes which may still be available. There is no entrance fee.

The payment of a single sum of £5 (colonial or foreign members £5 5s. 0d.; American members 27 dollars), entitles to life membership. Life members will receive one copy of each volume issued subsequently to the receipt of this sum by the Society.

Vols. I., II. and III. are now out of print and others are rapidly becoming scarce. The ordinary sale price to non-members is 10/6 per volume (post free).

The Council makes a strong appeal to all interested in the preservation and publication of Irish Manuscripts to join the Society and to contribute to its funds, and especially to the Editorial Fund, which has been established for the remuneration of Editors for their arduous work.

NOTE Change of Address.

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary,
7 Brunswick Square, London, W.C. 1.

IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY.

THE Twentieth Annual Meeting of the Irish Texts Society was held on 1st February, 1919, at 20 Hanover Square, W.1.

Mr. R. Flower, Chairman of the Executive Council, presided. The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were taken as read.

The Hon Secretary read the

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

The long illness of Professor Douglas Hyde during the summer months has delayed the publication of his volume "The Wars of Charlemagne" (*Sabatair Séptuir Mór*), which for a time had to be laid aside. Since his recovery, however, the Editor has worked hard on the completion of the book, and it is now practically through the press. The book may be expected by our members very shortly.

The present great cost of printing has obliged the Council to hold back for some months the issue of Rev. Lambert McKenna's edition of the "Contention of the Bards," a costly work to produce at the present time. It has been decided to produce the book in two parts, and the first part, which is passing through the press, will shortly appear. It will form the Society's volume for 1918. The Council have to thank Fr. McKenna for the patience he has exercised throughout their dealings with him, and for his consideration of the difficulties in which the Council have been placed in producing their books while such high prices for printing and paper still rule. Fr. McKenna's main work on this book was completed some months ago.

The Council have been glad to receive from Professor Tadhg O'Donnchadha and Miss Eleanor Knott the assurance that their volumes on "The Poems of the O'Neills of Clanaboy" and "The Poems of Tadhg Dall O'Higgin" are approaching completion. The Council have thus on hand a most important and interesting series of books, and if their funds were more equal to the work that lies before the Society much more rapid progress in publication could be made. They appeal to the Irish public and to those interested in the publication of Irish prose and poetry of the past to put it in their power, by an increase of membership and by donations or legacies, to produce more rapidly the existing

remains of Irish literature. The Council feel that in this, the 21st year of the existence of the Society, they can appeal with confidence for further help having regard to the work they have already done. The publication of 18 annual volumes and of two Irish Dictionaries in the course of twenty years of existence and on the small subscription of 7/6 per annum is a record in which the Council feel cause of legitimate satisfaction. But more remains to be done, and the Council hope to receive increased financial support to enable the work of the Society to be pushed forward more rapidly by the more speedy publication of the volumes still awaiting their chance to appear.

The great anxiety facing the Council at the present time arises out of their determination that Irish studies must not be allowed to languish for lack of their Dictionary, so unfortunately destroyed by fire, but that they would face the risk and heavy cost of re-publication on an enlarged scale of Fr. Dinneen's excellent book ; a book that, more than any other single publication, has pushed on the study of the Irish language, and the possession of which is essential to every student. The response to the Society's appeal for guarantors has not been at all what might have been expected at a time when the study of Irish is extending in every part of the country. Save for a generous grant of £50 from the Gaelic League of London and the kind offers of one or two special friends of the work, the response has been very meagre. The £200 promised in loans will go a very short way towards a work upon which the Editor is likely to be engaged for his entire time during four years or more. The cost of printing and publication together will probably amount to a total of over £1,500.

The Council are placed in the embarrassing position of having allowed their indefatigable Editor to begin a work for which they have not at the present time the means to ensure publication. Thus, unless the public comes to the help of the undertaking the publication must necessarily be indefinitely postponed. Meanwhile, the Society is annually losing the steady income from Dictionary sales which has enabled it to supplement its income and to produce volumes much larger and more costly than would otherwise have been possible out of the small annual subscription. At such a time of stress as the last four years have been, the loss of the funds accruing from sales of the Dictionary has been severely felt, and to this is largely owing the late production and the decreased size of the annual volumes now being issued by the Society.

We regret to report the decease of the following members :—
 Piaras MacCanna, M.P. ; Professor R. Brünnow, Lieut.-Col.
 Bryan J. Jones, Thomas F. Keating.

The following is a full list of the life members of the Society :—

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS.

Miss Eleanor Hull and Mrs. O'Kinealy.

LIFE MEMBERS.

G. P. Byrne	Paul Herrick Kelly
Very Rev. J. Canon Coholan, P.P., V.F.	Hon. A. L. Lewis
Rev. M. J. Curran	Wm. McArthur McInnes
J. P. Dalton	Jos. O'Carroll, M.D.
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Professor Y. M. Goblet	His Honor Judge O'Connor, K.C.
Rev. C. T. Harley-Walker	Rev. T. O'Sullivan
Miss Mary A. Hollingworth	Rev. M. Sheehan, D.D.

The following new ordinary members have joined or re-joined the Society during the year :—

John Beckett	Art O'Brien
E. A. Boyd	Diarmuid O'Concubair.
George Boyle	Ristead O'Concubair
Rev. J. Casey, C.C.	P. O h-Annrachain.
John J. Clarke	P. Powell
Jos. J. Galbally	C. J. Saurin
Rev. W. Holland, C.C.	Prof. J. A. Smith, LL.D.
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Mrs Rose MacKenna	Sean Toibin
A. MacLoclairn	Proinsias Ua Gadhra.
Rev. S. MacCunnigean	Rev. J. A. Walsh

On the proposal of Mr. Samuel Boyle, seconded by Rev. T. O'Sullivan, the Report was adopted.

The Financial Statement and Balance Sheet were then presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Samuel Boyle, and were adopted on the proposal of Dr. Crone, seconded by Mr. James Buckley, and carried.

The re-election of the outgoing members of the Council, Mrs. M. M. Banks, Mr. D. J. O'Sullivan and Mr. Ernest Rhys, was carried on the proposal of the Rev. T. O'Sullivan, seconded by Dr. Crone.

The re-election of Professor Douglas Hyde as President of the Society was carried on the proposal of Dr. England, seconded by Mr. Ernest Rhys, and that of the Hon. Secretary, Miss Eleanor Hull, and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Samuel Boyle, on the proposal of the Rev. T. O'Sullivan, seconded by Dr. England.

NOTE.—It has been decided to suspend for this year the publication of the list of names and addresses of members of the Society.

THE IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1918.

THE SOCIETY'S ORDINARY PUBLICATIONS.

RECEIPTS.				DISBURSEMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions, Ordinary	109	2	6	By Balance from previous			
„ „ Life	50	10	0	Account	281	7	10
„ Donations and Extras	10	8	10	„ Salary and Postage	35	16	3
„ Interest on Investments	22	0	0	„ Printing and Binding	27	15	8
Simpkin Marshall's a/c	46	5	11	„ Sundries	14	19	11
Balance	121	12	5				
Total	£359	19	8	Total	£359	19	8

THE SOCIETY'S IRISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARIES.

RECEIPTS.				DISBURSEMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Receipts already published	3675	14	1	By Payments previously published	2678	17	3
„ Guarantee Fund and Donations	119	9	2	„ Printing and Binding	25	16	2
				„ Editing and Sundries	94	5	2
				„ Balance	996	4	8
Total	£3795	3	3	Total	£3795	3	3

THE SOCIETY'S JOINT CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

ASSETS.				LIABILITIES.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance (brought down)	996	4	8	By Balance (brought down)	121	12	5
				Net Assets.			
				Investments	485	0	0
				Petty Cash—			
				In Secretary's hands	5	0	0
				Cash in Bank	384	12	3
Total	£996	4	8	Total	£996	4	8

(Signed) SAM. BOYLE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Examined Books, Accounts, and Balances, and found correct.

(Signed) C. R. COOKE-TAYLOR, } *Auditors.*
T. V. O'SULLIVAN, }

NOTE.—The Council desires to express its thanks to the Auditors for their kindness in examining and auditing the accounts of the Society.

GENERAL RULES.

OBJECTS.

1.—The Society is instituted for the purpose of promoting the publication of Texts in the Irish Language, accompanied by such Introductions, English Translations, Glossaries and Notes as may be deemed desirable.

CONSTITUTION.

2.—The Society shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, an Executive Council, a Consultative Committee and Ordinary and Life Members.

OFFICERS.

3.—The Officers of the Society shall be the President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

4.—The entire management of the Society shall be entrusted to the Executive Council, consisting of the Officers of the Society and not more than ten other Members, to whom the Executive Council may add by Co-option not more than two members, who shall retire annually.

5.—All property of the Society shall be vested in the Executive Council, and shall be disposed of as they shall direct by a two-thirds majority.

6.—Three Members of the Executive Council shall retire each year by rotation at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election, the Members to retire being selected according to seniority of election, or, in case of equality, by lot. The Council shall have power to co-opt Members to fill up casual vacancies occurring throughout the year. Any Member of Council who is absent from five consecutive Ordinary Meetings of the Council to which he (or she) has been duly summoned, shall be considered as having vacated his (or her) place on the Council.

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE.

7.—The Consultative Committee, or individual Members thereof, shall give advice, when consulted by the Executive Council, on questions relating to the Publications of the Society, but shall not be responsible for the management of the business of the Society.

MEMBERS.

8.—Members may be elected either at the Annual General Meeting, or from time to time, by the Executive Council.

SUBSCRIPTION.

9.—The Subscription for each Member of the Society shall be 7/6 per annum (American subscribers, two dollars), entitling the Member to one copy (post free) of the volume published by the Society for the year, and giving the right to vote on all questions submitted to the General Meetings of the Society. The payment of a single sum of £5 (Colonial or foreign members £5 5s. 0d., American members 27 dollars) entitles to life membership. Life members will receive one copy of each volume issued subsequently to the receipt of this sum by the Society.

10.—Subscriptions shall be payable in advance on the 1st January in each year.

11.—Members whose Subscriptions for the year have not been paid are not entitled to any volume published by the Society for that year, and any Member whose Subscription for the current year remains unpaid, and who receives and *retains* any publication for the year, shall be held liable for the payment of the full published price of such publication.

12.—The Publications of the Society shall not be sold to persons other than Members, except at an advanced price.

13.—Members whose Subscriptions for the current year have been paid shall alone have the right of voting at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

14.—Members wishing to resign must give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary, before the end of the year, of their intention to do so: otherwise they will be liable for their Subscriptions for the ensuing year.

EDITORIAL FUND.

15.—A fund shall be opened for the remuneration of Editors for their work in preparing Texts for publication. All subscriptions and donations to this fund shall be purely voluntary, and shall not be applicable to other purposes of the Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

16.—A General Meeting shall be held each year in the month of January, or as soon after as the Executive Council shall determine, when the Council shall submit their Report and the Accounts of the Society for the preceding year, and when vacant seats on the Council shall be filled up, and the ordinary business of a General Meeting transacted.

AUDIT.

17.—The Accounts of the Society shall be audited each year by auditors appointed at the preceding General Meeting.

CHANGES IN THESE RULES.

18.—With the notice summoning the General Meeting, the Executive Council shall give notice of any change proposed by them in these Rules. Ordinary Members proposing any change in the Rules must give notice thereof in writing to the Honorary Secretary seven clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

LIST OF IRISH TEXT SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.

(Out of print).

(I.) *Siolta an Fiuḡa*. [The Lad of the Ferule].

Ḃaḡḡra Cloinne Ríḡ na h-Ioruaíḡe [Adventures of the Children of the King of Norway].

(16th and 17th century texts).

Edited by

PROFESSOR DOUGLAS HYDE, D.LITT., LL.D

(Out of print).

(2.) *Fíeḡ Ḃricríeḡ* [The Feast of Bricriu].

(From *Leabhar na h-Uidhre*, with conclusion from Gaelic MS. XL. Advocates' Lib., and variants from B. M. Egerton, 93 ; T.C.D. H. 3. 17 ; Leyden Univ., Is Vossii lat. 4^a. 7).

Edited by GEORGE HENDERSON, M.A., PH.D.

Out of print. See New Edition (Volume 3a).

(3.) *Dáḡḡa Doḡḡáin uí Raḡáille* [The Poems of Egan O'Rahilly]. Complete Edition.

Edited, chiefly from mss. in Maynooth College, by
REV. P. S. DINNEEN, M.A.

(Volume for 1909.) (See No. 3.)

(3A.) New Edition of the Poems of Egan O'Rahilly.

Revised by PROFESSOR TADHG O'DONOGHUE (ḡaḡḡ Ó Donnḡaḡa) and REV. P. S. DINNEEN, M.A.

(*Volume for 1901.*)

- (4.) FÓRAR FEARA AN ÉIRINN [History of Ireland]. By GEOFFREY KEATING. Part I. (See Vols. 8, 9, 15).

Edited by DAVID COMYN, Esq., M.R.I.A.

(*Volume for 1902.*)

- (5.) CAITRÉIM CONGAIL CLAIRINGHUIS, preserved in a paper MS. of the seventeenth century, in the Royal Irish Academy (23 H. 1 C.)

Edited by The
VERY REV. PROFESSOR P. M. MACSWEENEY, M.A.

(*Volume for 1903.*)

- (6.) The Irish Version of Virgil's Æneid from the Book of Ballymote.

Edited by REV. GEORGE CALDER, B.D.

(*Volume for 1904.*)

- (7.) Ouanaisne Fínn. [Ossianic Poems from the Library of the Franciscan Monastery, Dublin].

Edited by PROFESSOR JOHN MACNEILL, B.A.

(*Volume for 1905.*)

- (8.) FÓRAR FEARA AN ÉIRINN [History of Ireland]. By GEOFFREY KEATING. Part II.

Edited by REV. P. S. DINNEEN, M.A.

(See Vols. 4, 9, and 15).

(*Volume for 1906.*)

- (9.) FÓRAR FEARA AN ÉIRINN [History of Ireland]. By GEOFFREY KEATING. Part III.

Edited by REV. P. S. DINNEEN, M.A.

(See Vols. 4, 8, and 15).

(*Volume for 1907.*)

- (10.) Two Arthurian Romances [EACÉTRA MACAOIRÉ AN IOLAIR AGUS EACÉTRA AN MÓIRA MÓIR.]

Edited by Professor R. A. S. MACALISTER, M.A.

(*Volume for 1908.*)

- (11.) Poems of David O'Bruadair. (Part I.)

Edited by REV. J. MACERLEAN, S.J.

(See Vols. 13, 18).

Volume for 1909—see 3a supra.

(*Volume for 1910.*)

- (12.) Buile Suibhne Geilt, A Middle-Irish Romance.

Edited by J. G. O'KEEFFE.

(*Volume for 1911.*)

- (13.) Poems of David O'Bruadair. (Part II.)

Edited by REV. J. MACERLEAN, S.J.

(See Vols. 11, 18).

(*Volume for 1912.*)

- (14.) An Irish Astronomical Tract, based in part on a Mediæval Latin version of a work by Messahalāh.

Edited by MAURA POWER M.A.

(*Volume for 1913.*)

- (15.) *Forar feara an Éirinn* [History of Ireland]. By GEOFFREY KEATING. Part IV. Containing the Genealogies and Synchronisms with an index including the elucidation of place names and annotations to Parts I., II., III. (See Vols. 4, 8, 9 *supra*.)

Compiled and Edited by REV. P. S. DINNEEN, M.A.

(Volume for 1914.)

- (16.) Life of St. Declan of Ardmore (Edited from M.S. in Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels) and Life of St. Mochuda of Lismore (Edited from MS. in Library of Royal Irish Academy, with Introduction, Translation and Notes.

By REV. PROFESSOR P. POWER, M.R.I.A.

(Volume for 1915).

- (17.) Poems of Turlogh O'Carolan and additional Connaught and Ulster poems.

Edited by
PROFESSOR TÓMÁS O'MÁILLE, M.A., PH.D.

(Volume for 1916.)

- (18.) Poems of David O'Bruadair; (Part III.)

Edited by REV. J. MACERLEAN, S.J.

(See Vols. II, 13).

(Volume for 1917).

- (19.) Σαβαταρ Σεπτιμ ρῑοι [The Wars of Charlemagne].

Edited by
PROF. DOUGLAS HYDE, Litt.D., LL.D., M.R.I.A.

(Volume for 1918).

- (20.) *Iomarbhaidh na bhfileadh* [The Contention of the Bards]. (Part I.)

Edited in two parts by REV. LAMBERT McKENNA, S.J.

The Society's Larger Irish-English Dictionary, edited by Rev. P. S. Dinneen, M.A., is now out of print.
See Report.

The Smaller Irish-English Dictionary, by the same author, can be had of all booksellers, price 3/6 net.

FATHER DINNEEN'S IRISH-ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

The stereo plates of Father Dinneen's Irish-English Dictionary were burnt in the Dublin Rising of 1916, and the stock is completely exhausted.

The language movement and the study of our literature are lamed without this invaluable instrument. The Irish Texts Society has engaged Father Dinneen to replace it and to make the new work a far fuller and more useful book than the first Dictionary of sixteen years ago.

Large funds are urgently needed for this national object. The Society will be glad to receive either Donations or Loans. All the loans provided for the first Dictionary, amounting to over £500, were repaid shortly after publication. A yet larger amount is now required, in addition to what the Society has in hand. The Society looks to the Irish people at home and overseas to enable it to carry this undertaking through.

Contributions should be sent to Miss Eleanor Hull, Hon. Secretary, or to Samuel Boyle, Hon. Treasurer, Irish Texts Society, 7 Brunswick Square, London, W.C. 1.

*To the Hon. Treasurer, Irish Texts Society,
7 Brunswick Square, London, W.C. 1.*

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